

MARVEL

NEW WARRIORS®

THE
UNUSUAL
HEROES



DEFIANT

KEVIN GREVIOUX + PACO MEDINA

BACK FROM THE DEAD OR A NEW TEAM RISEN FROM THE ASHES?

Someone is gift-wrapping super-villains for the police. Someone is defacing Superhuman Registration posters. Someone is raising eyebrows all around town — from City Hall to Tony Stark's war chamber. And the only clue to their identity? Two spray-painted letters: N.W. Who are these mysterious young upstarts that have dared to fight the powers-that-be? Are the New Warriors truly back from the dead? Or has something new risen from the ashes of Stamford?

Collecting *New Warriors* #1-6, written by Kevin Greivoux (*Underworld*) and illustrated by Paco Medina (*New X-Men*).



DEFIANT



DEFIANT

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NEW WARRIORS

MARVEL

1

THE INITIATIVE™

NEW WARRIORS®



GREVIOUX
MEDINA





...MOVE
IN.



HE'S NOT
FINISHED
YET.

YES
HE IS.



HE JUST
DOESN'T KNOW
IT YET.



HIS KIND
ARE SMALL-
MINDED.



LITTLE MEN
WITH LITTLE
HOPE, WHO SEEK
TO BELITTLE
OTHERS.



TURN THE
TABLES...



...AND YOU
SHOW HIM
THE ERROR OF
HIS WAYS.

TELL
THEM.



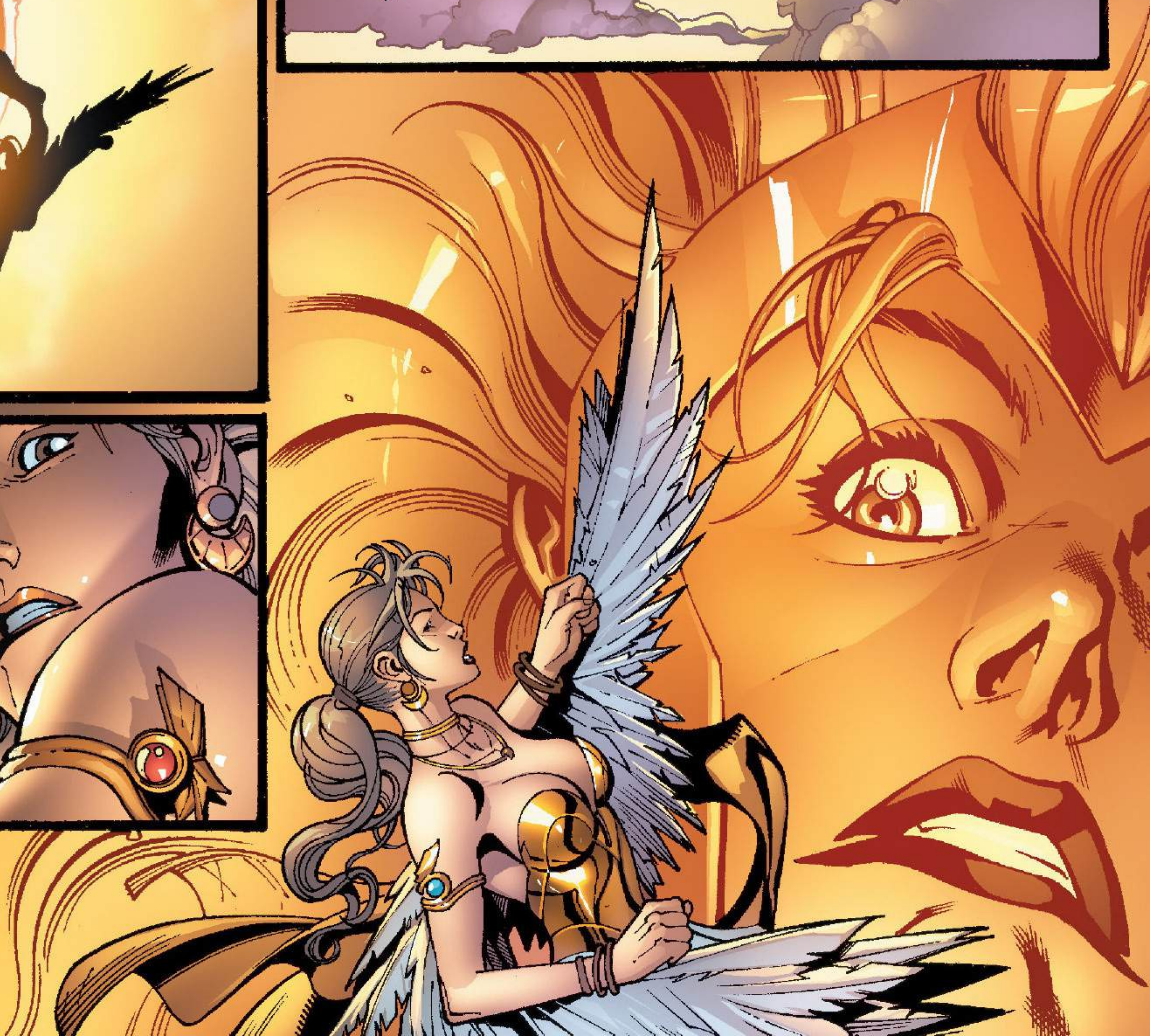
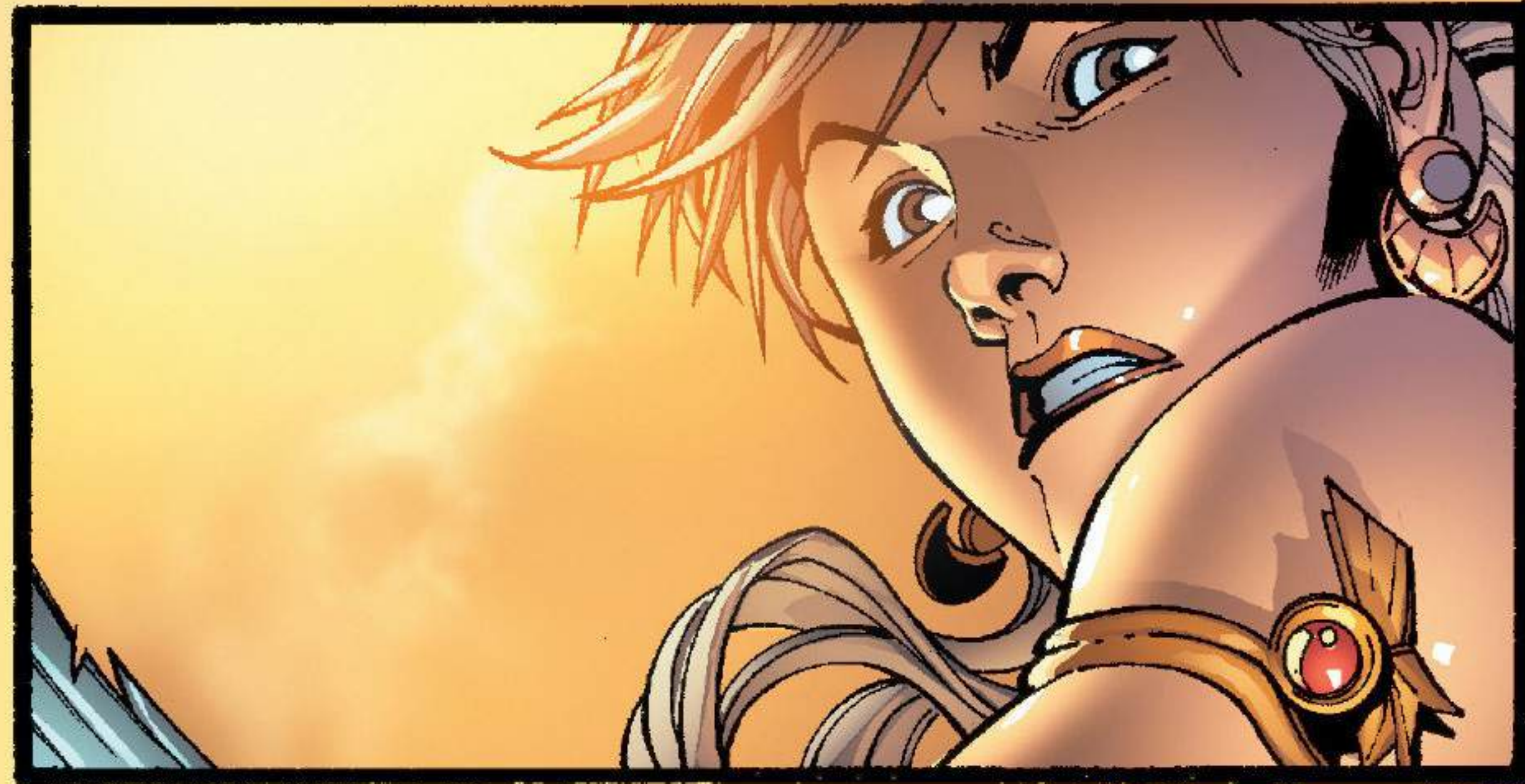
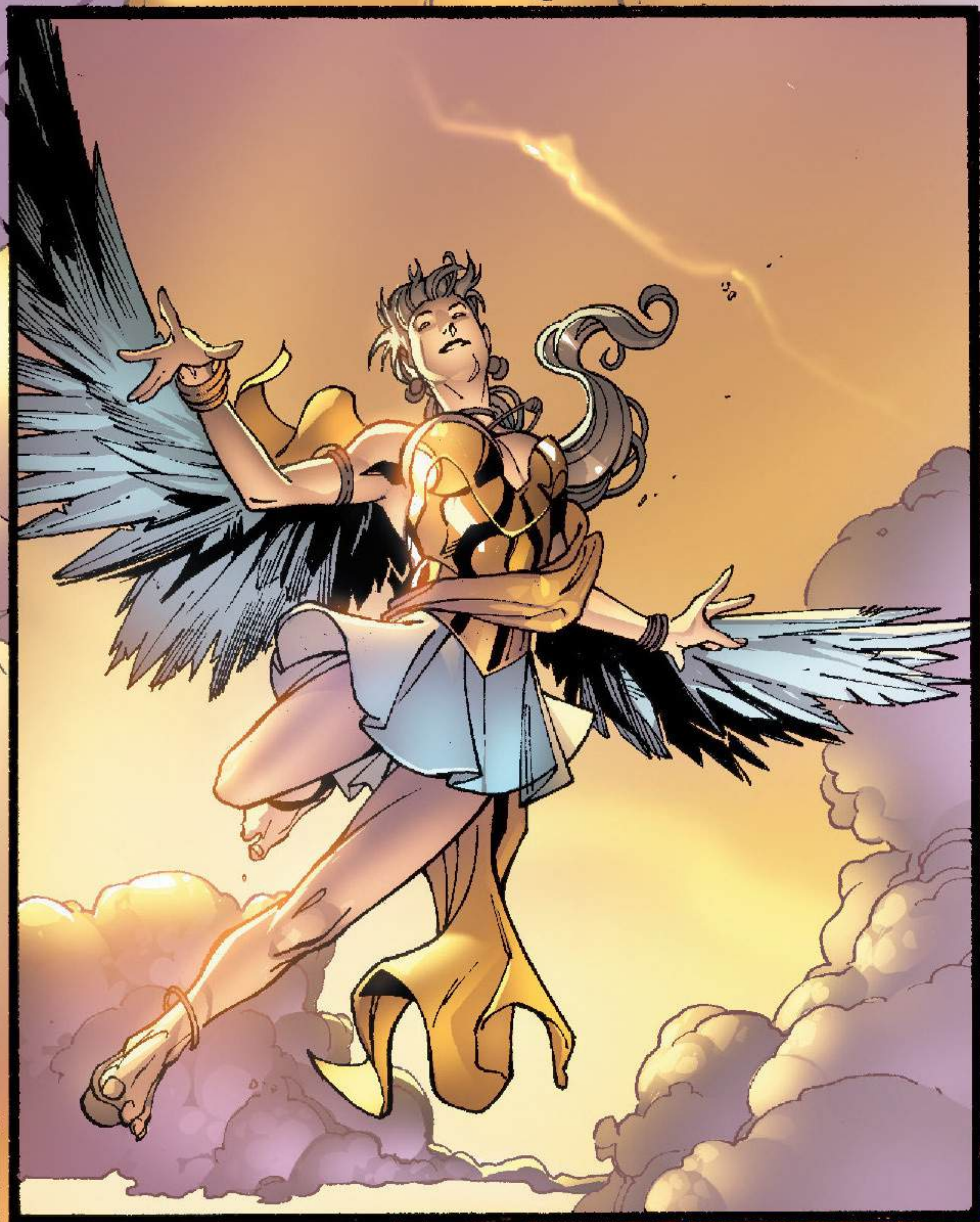
TELL YOUR
FRIENDS.

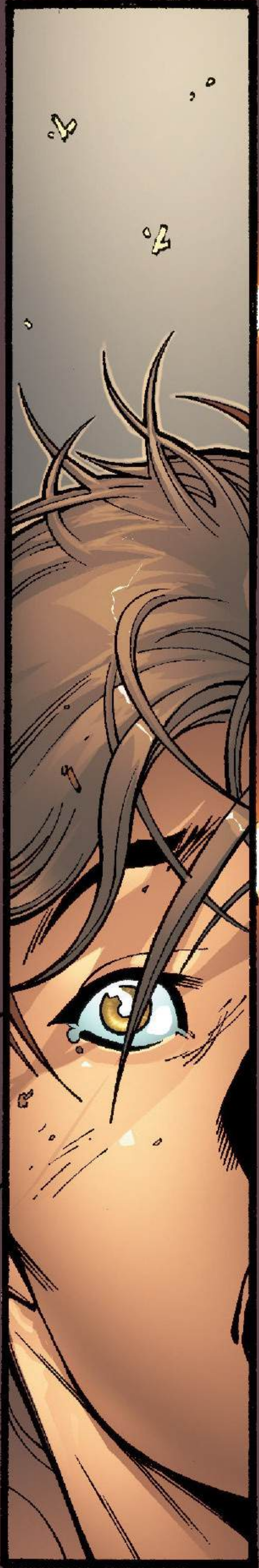
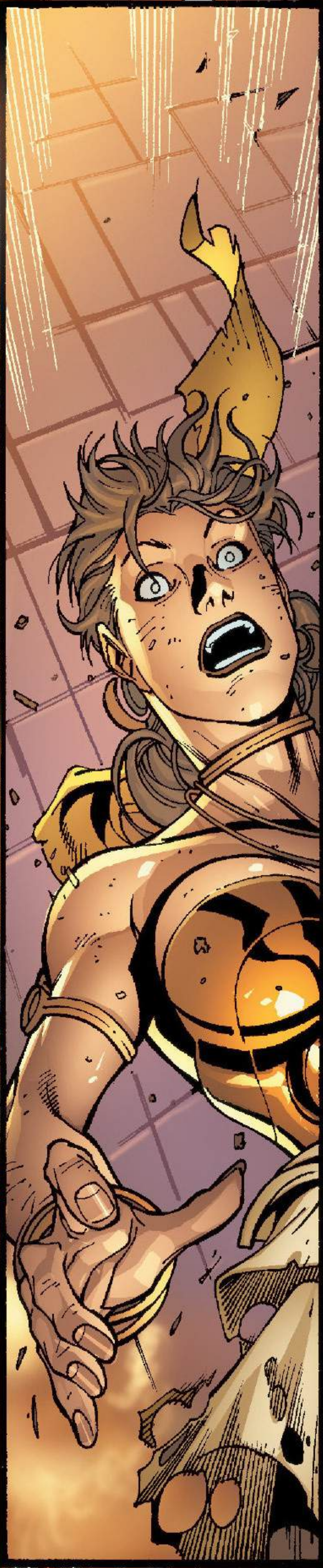


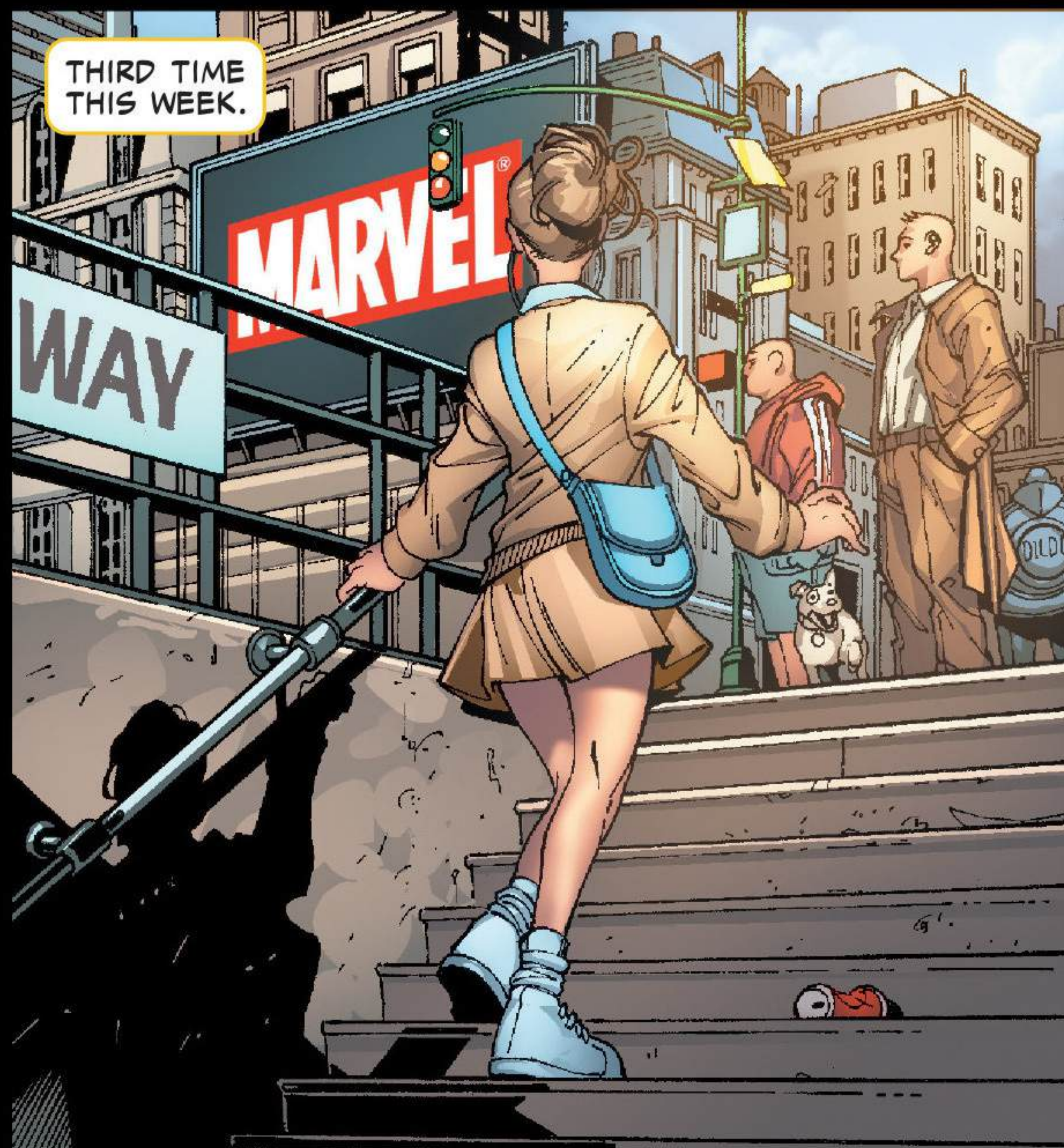
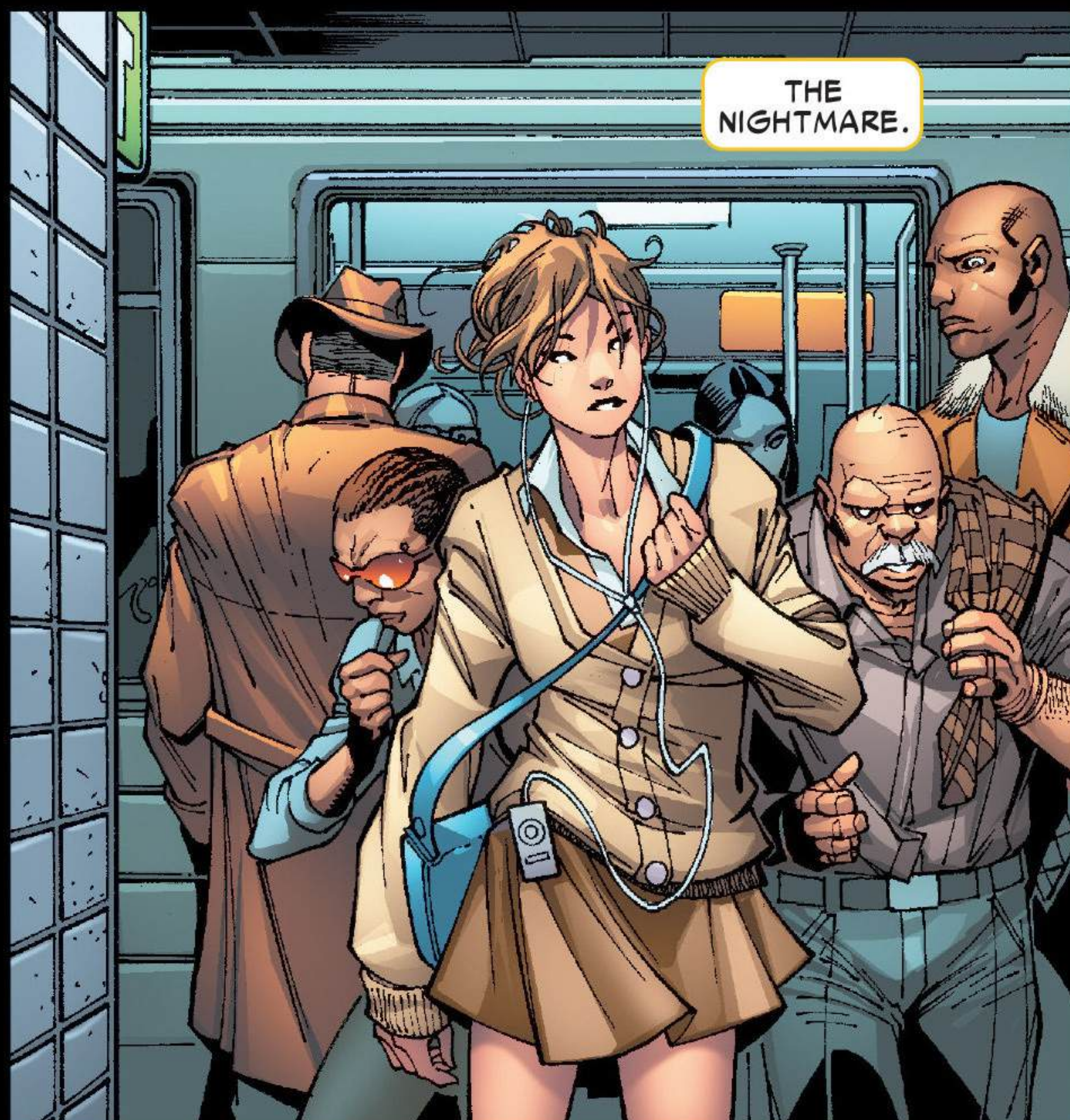
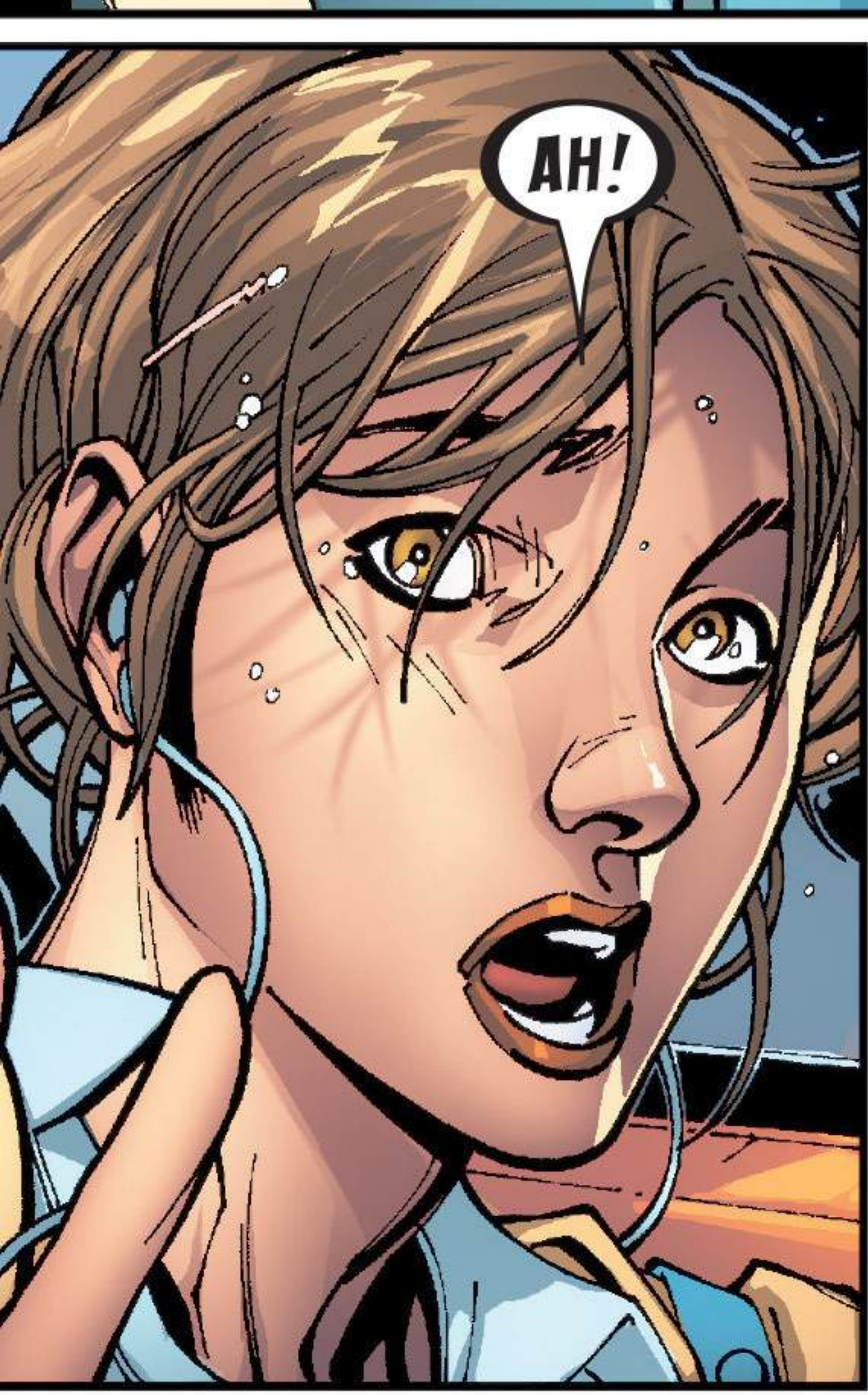
TELL
EVERYONE.

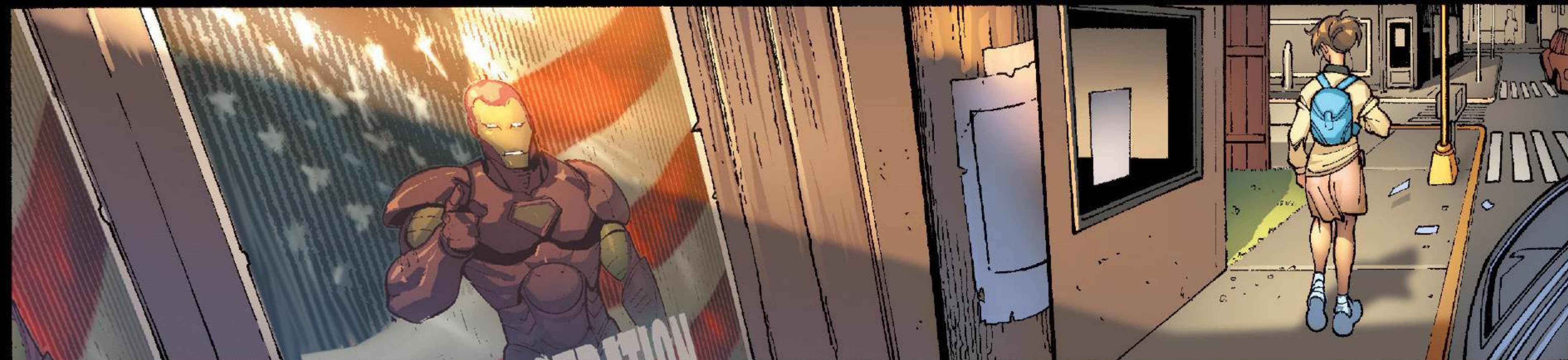
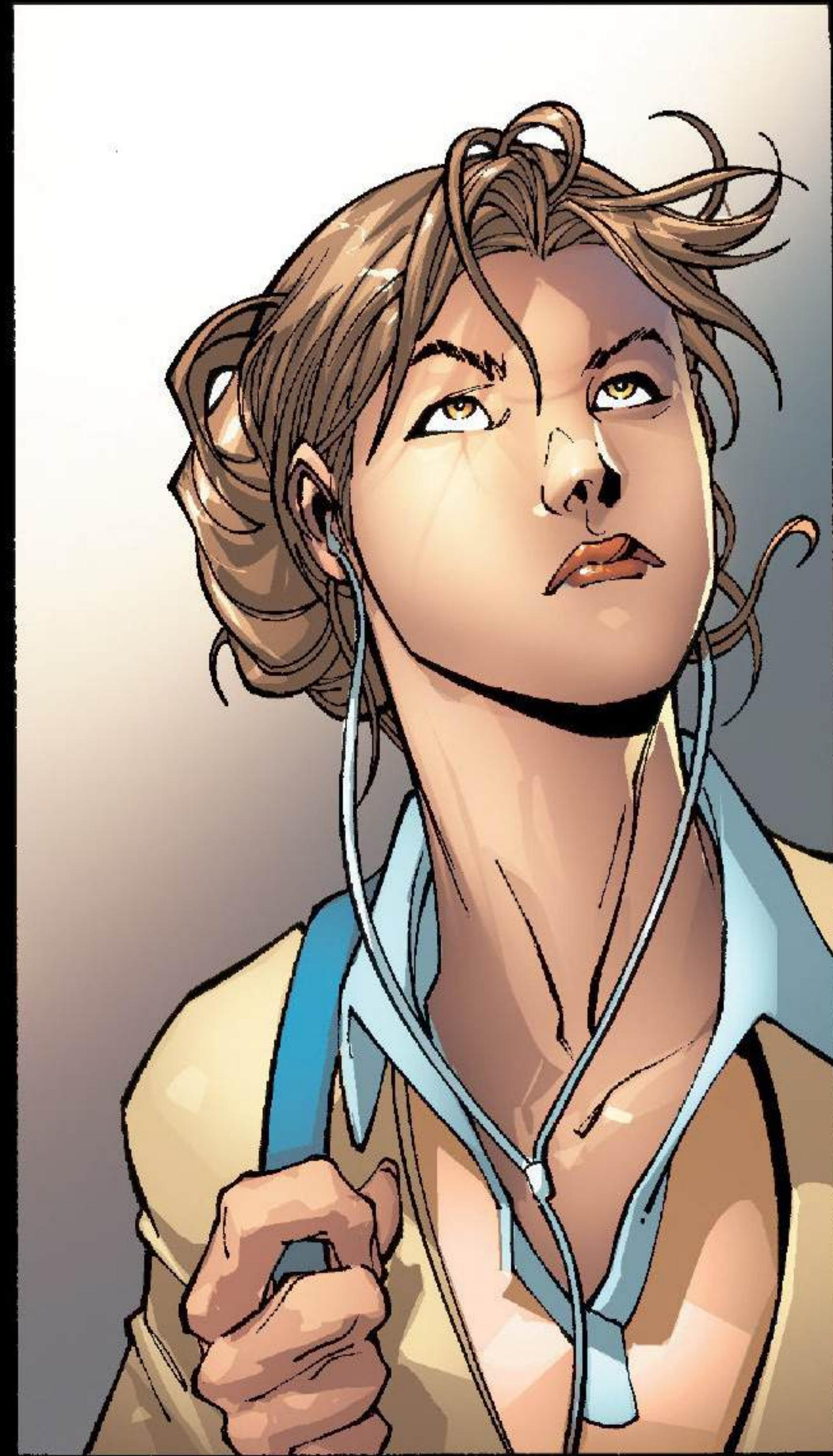
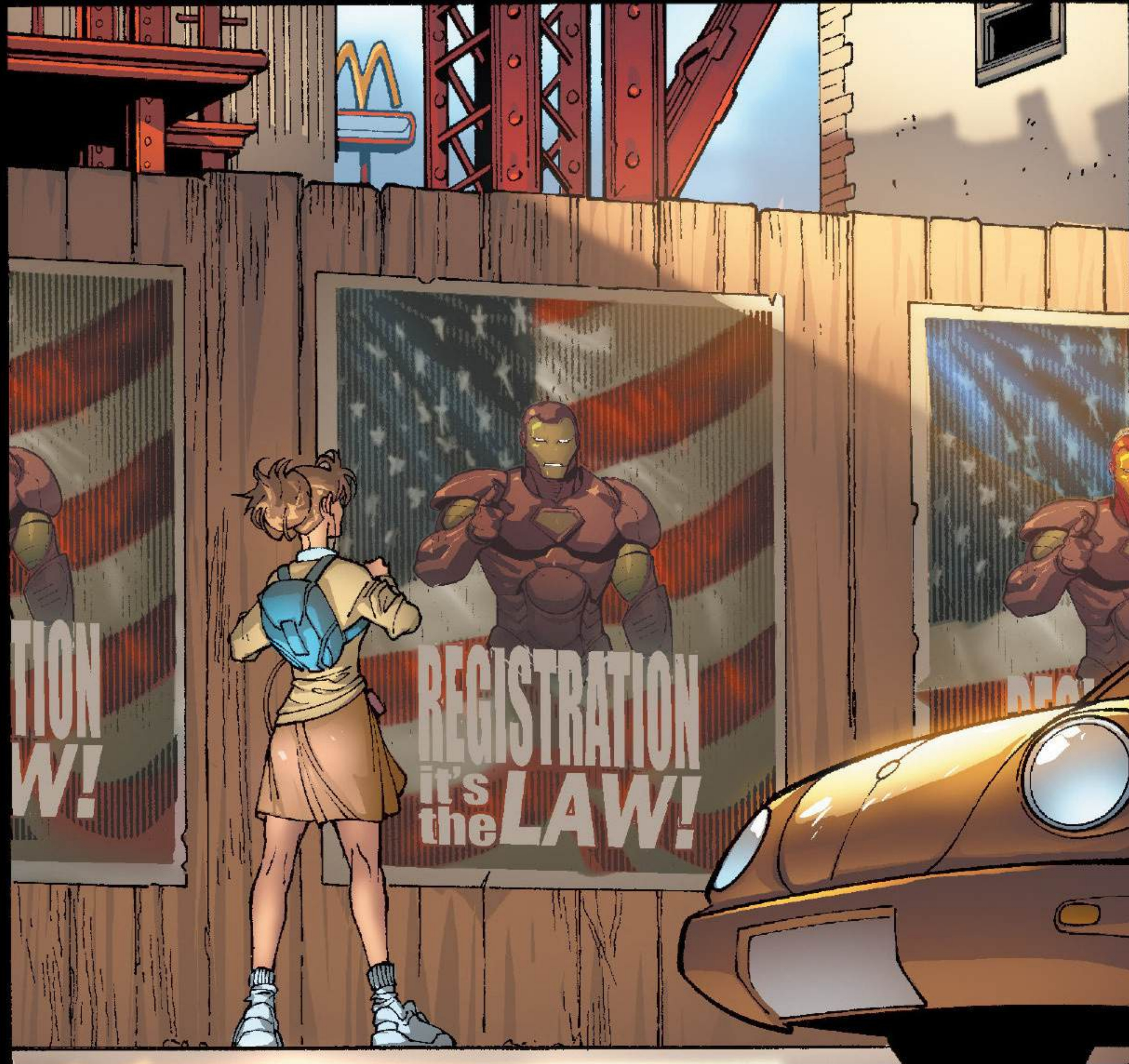


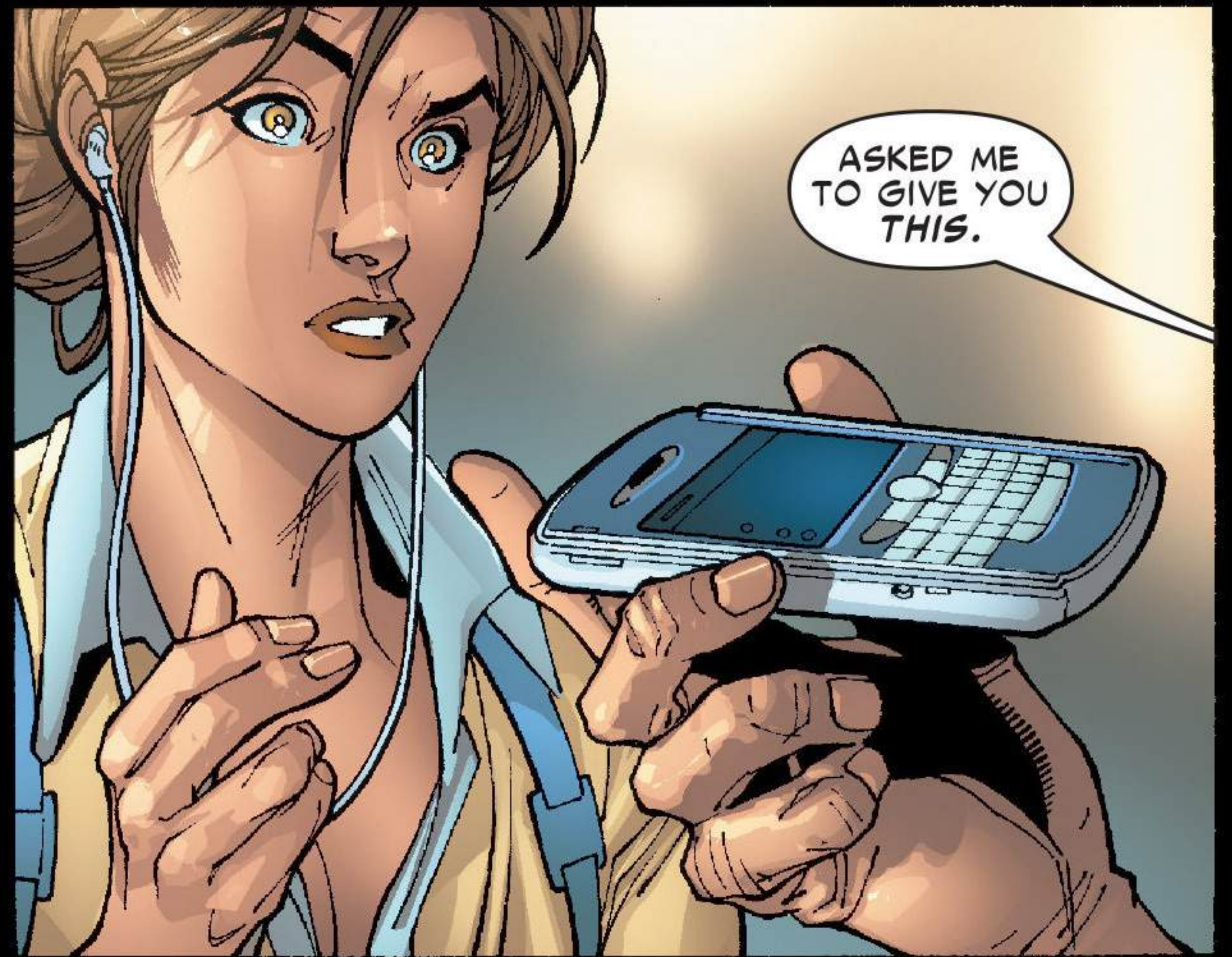
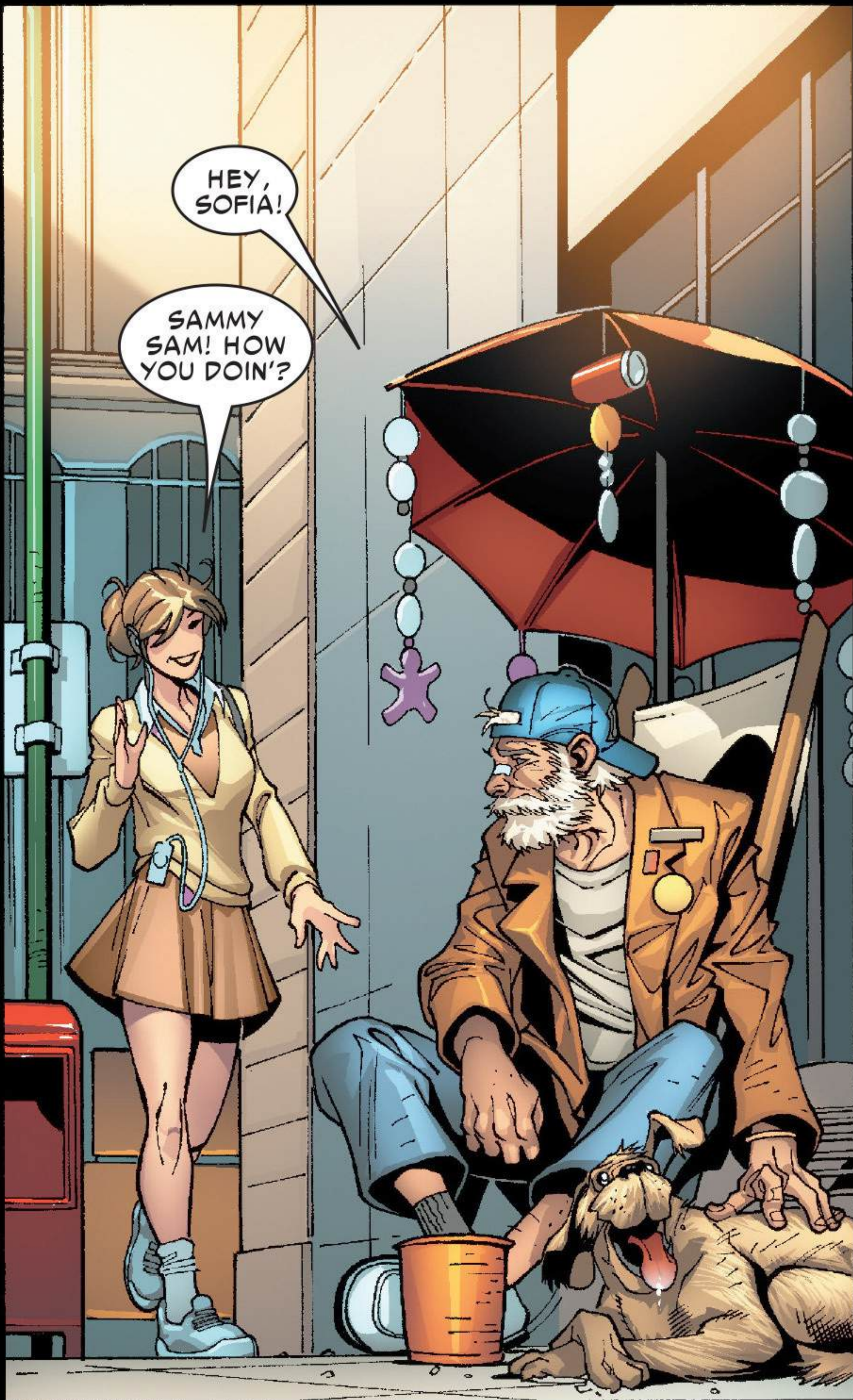
THIS
IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING.









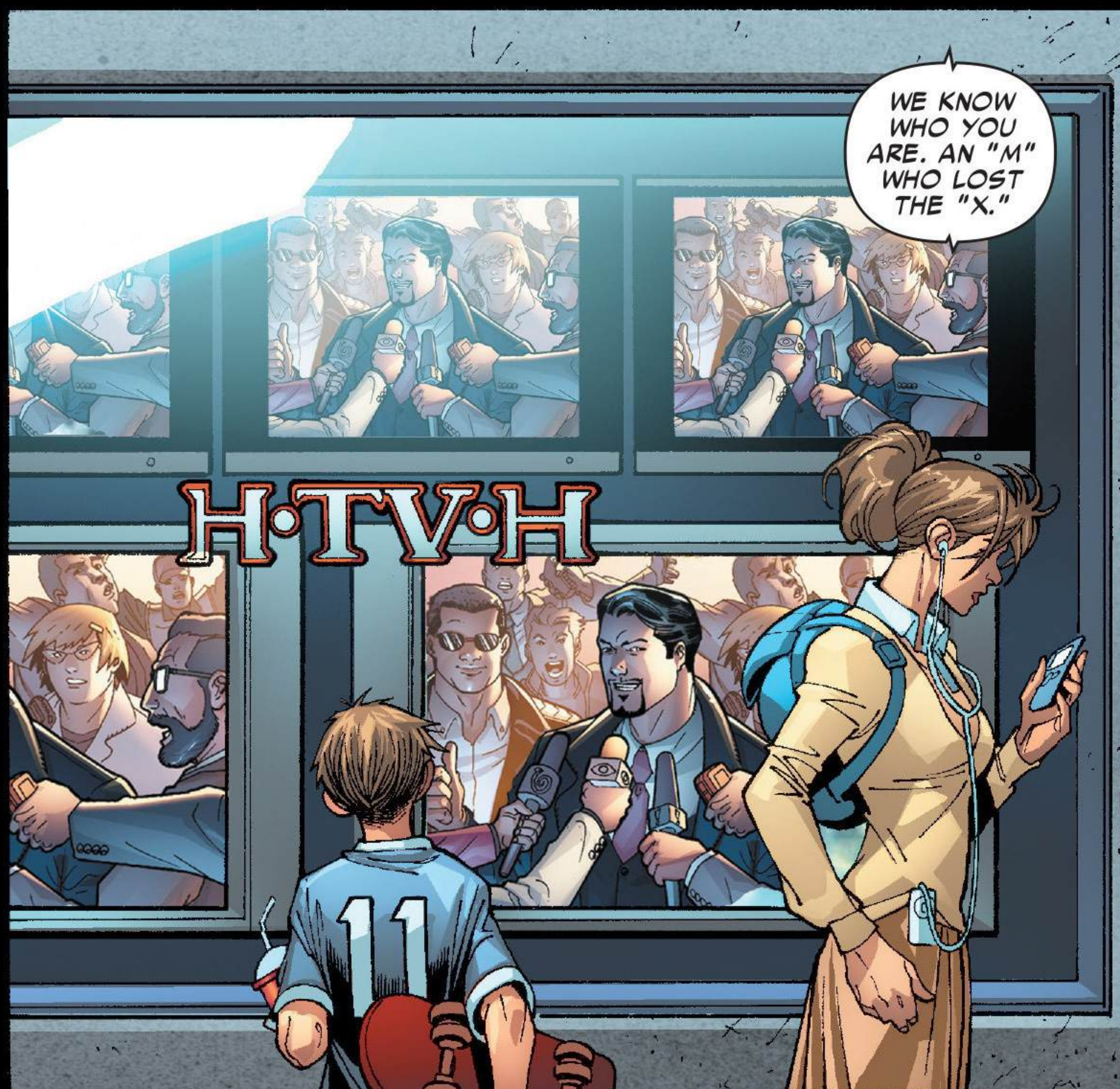




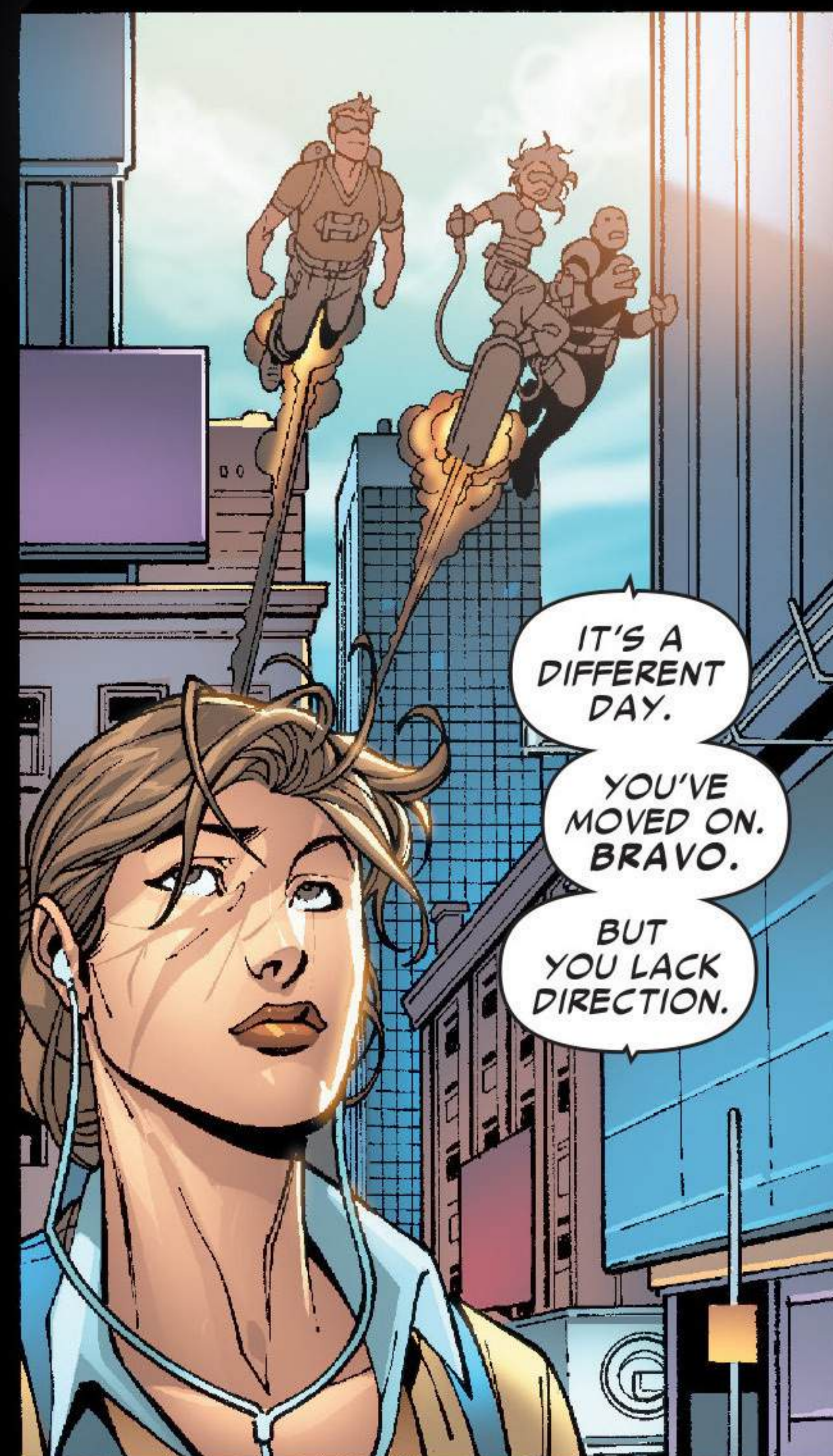
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YEAH, BUT WHO ARE Y--?

LISTEN. LEARN.



WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE. AN "M" WHO LOST THE "X."



IT'S A DIFFERENT DAY.

YOU'VE MOVED ON. BRAVO.

BUT YOU LACK DIRECTION.



HOW DID YOU--?

A SHIP WITHOUT A RUDDER. TOSSED ON THE WAVES.

HAVE YOU HEARD A WORD I'VE--?

BUT, NOT ANYMORE. WE ARE THE RUDDER.



NOW, LOOK--

WAIT--

THE WORLD IS BLIND. IT'S AN UGLY PLACE, BUT DOESN'T KNOW IT. WE'LL OPEN ITS EYES.



SONOFA--



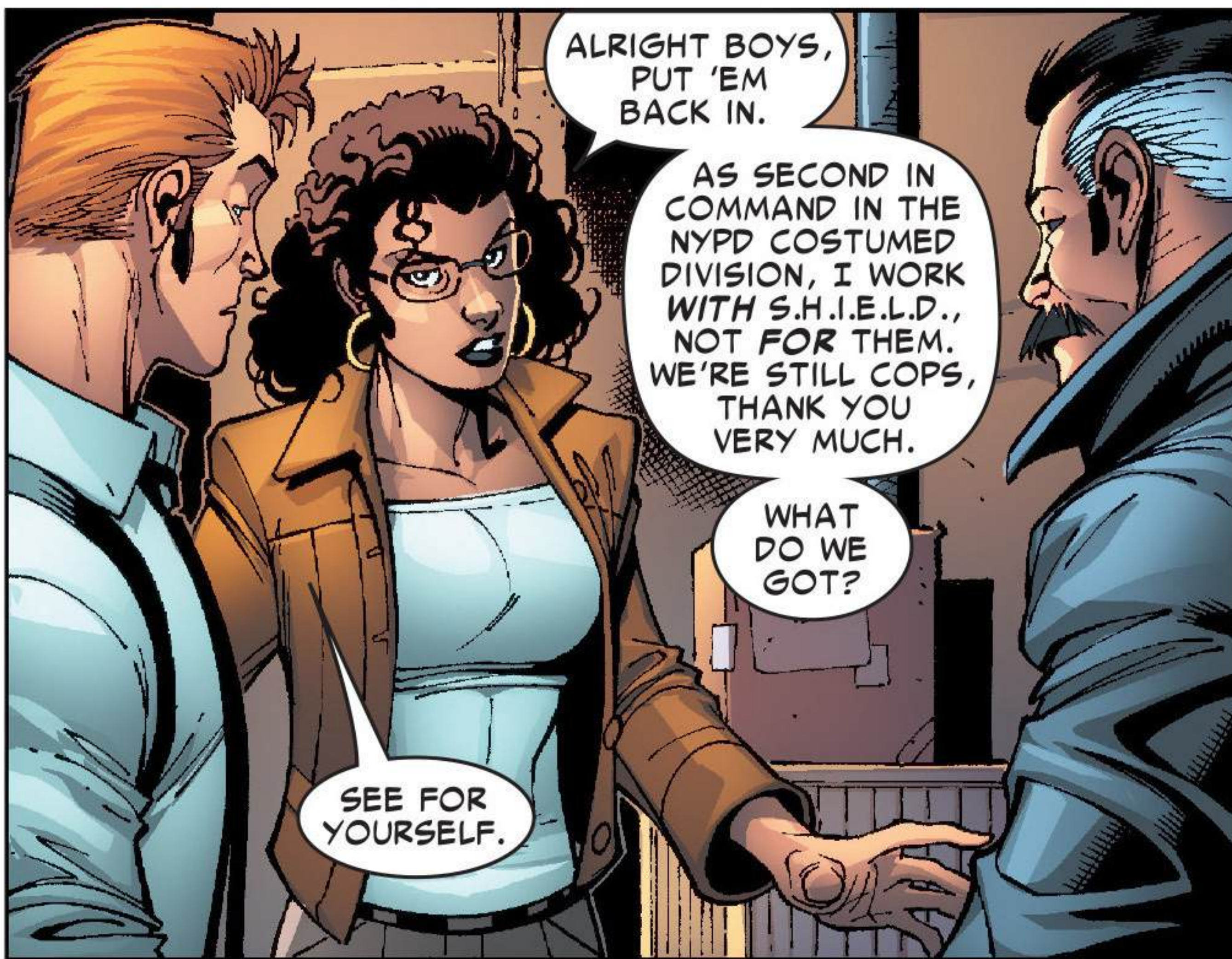
SYKES, GIVENS. I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU GUYS WOULD SHOW. THE FEDS FINALLY LET YOU OUT OF THE BIG HOUSE?



GRANVILLE. AS I LIVE AND SPIT. SOLVE ANY EASTER EGG HUNTS LATELY?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I FOUND A TRAIL OF SHELLS LEADING TO SOME HOUSE THE BUNNY'S BEEN CREEPIN' TO.

APPARENTLY, HE'S BEEN SEEIN' SOME LOOSE BROAD NAMED MRS. GIVENS.

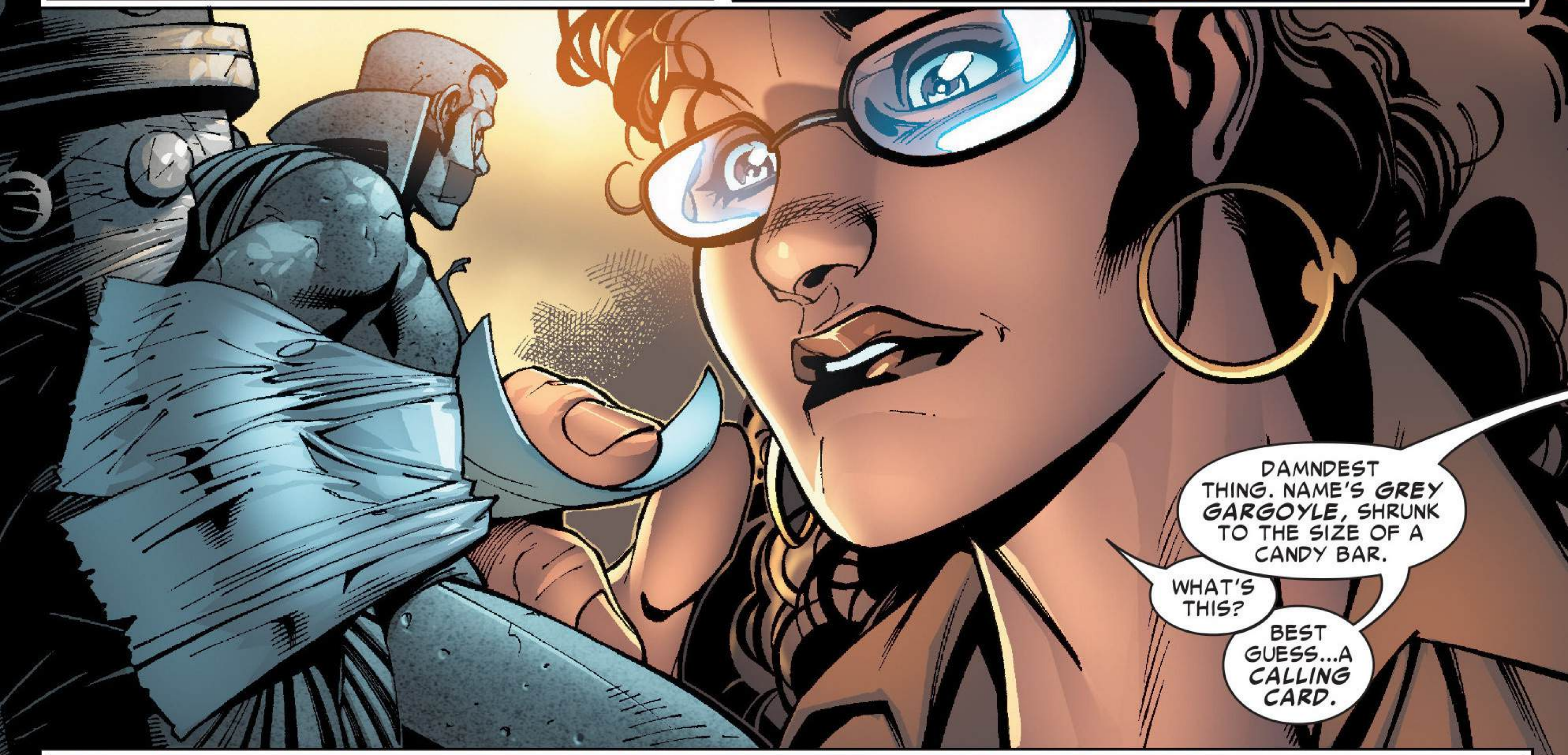


ALRIGHT BOYS, PUT 'EM BACK IN.

AS SECOND IN COMMAND IN THE NYPD COSTUMED DIVISION, I WORK WITH S.H.I.E.L.D., NOT FOR THEM. WE'RE STILL COPS, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHAT DO WE GOT?

SEE FOR YOURSELF.



DAMNDEST THING. NAME'S GREY GARGOYLE, SHRUNK TO THE SIZE OF A CANDY BAR.

WHAT'S THIS?

BEST GUESS...A CALLING CARD.



RING A BELL, SYKES?



ANYBODY SEE ANYTHING?

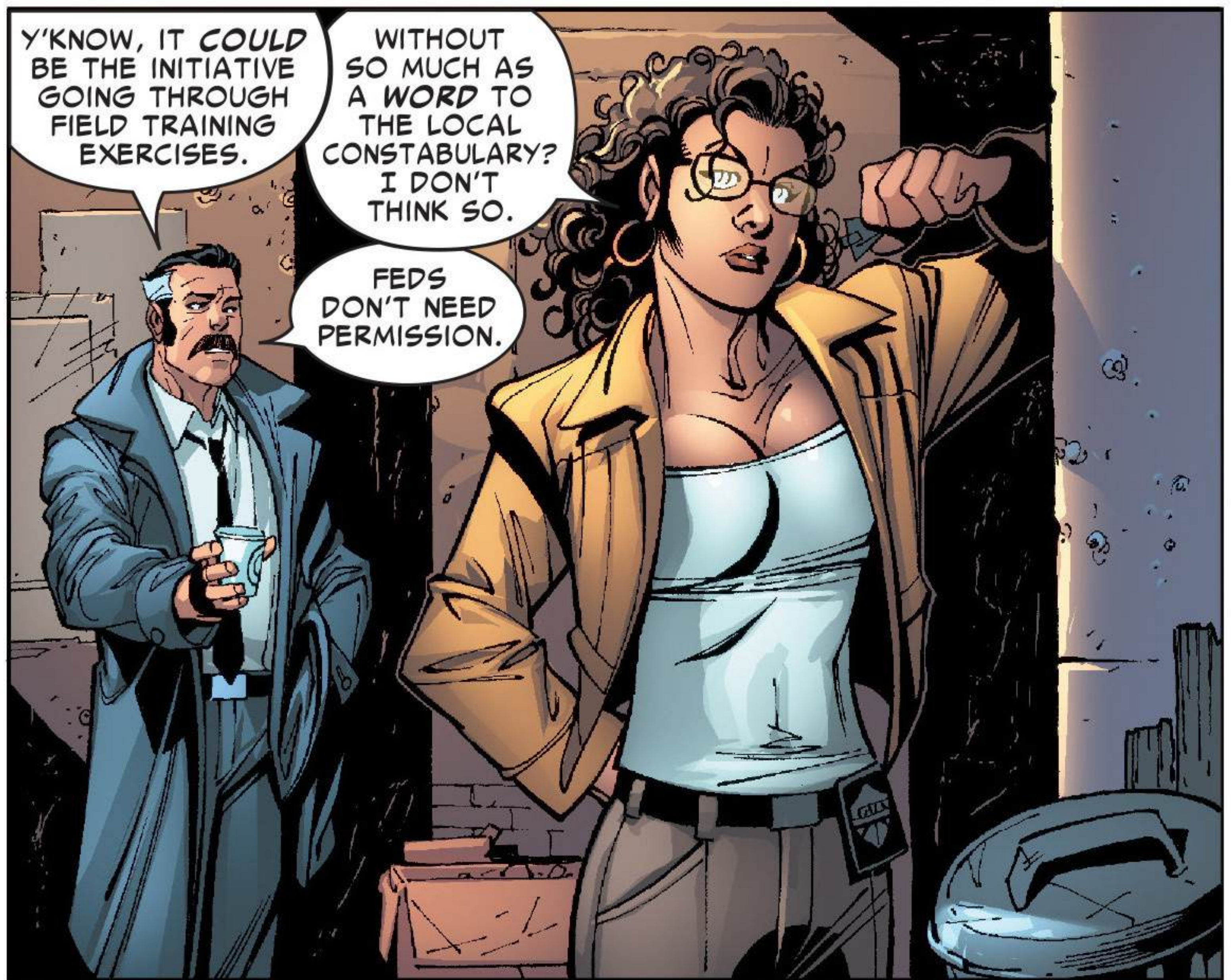
A COUPLA BUMS AND AN ALLEY CAT. MENTIONED A VARIETY OF WHITE MICE AND PINK ELEPHANTS RUNNING AROUND THESE PARTS.

ALTHOUGH FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO SAID WHAT.



CALL S.H.I.E.L.D. HAVE THEM SEND THE WAGON.

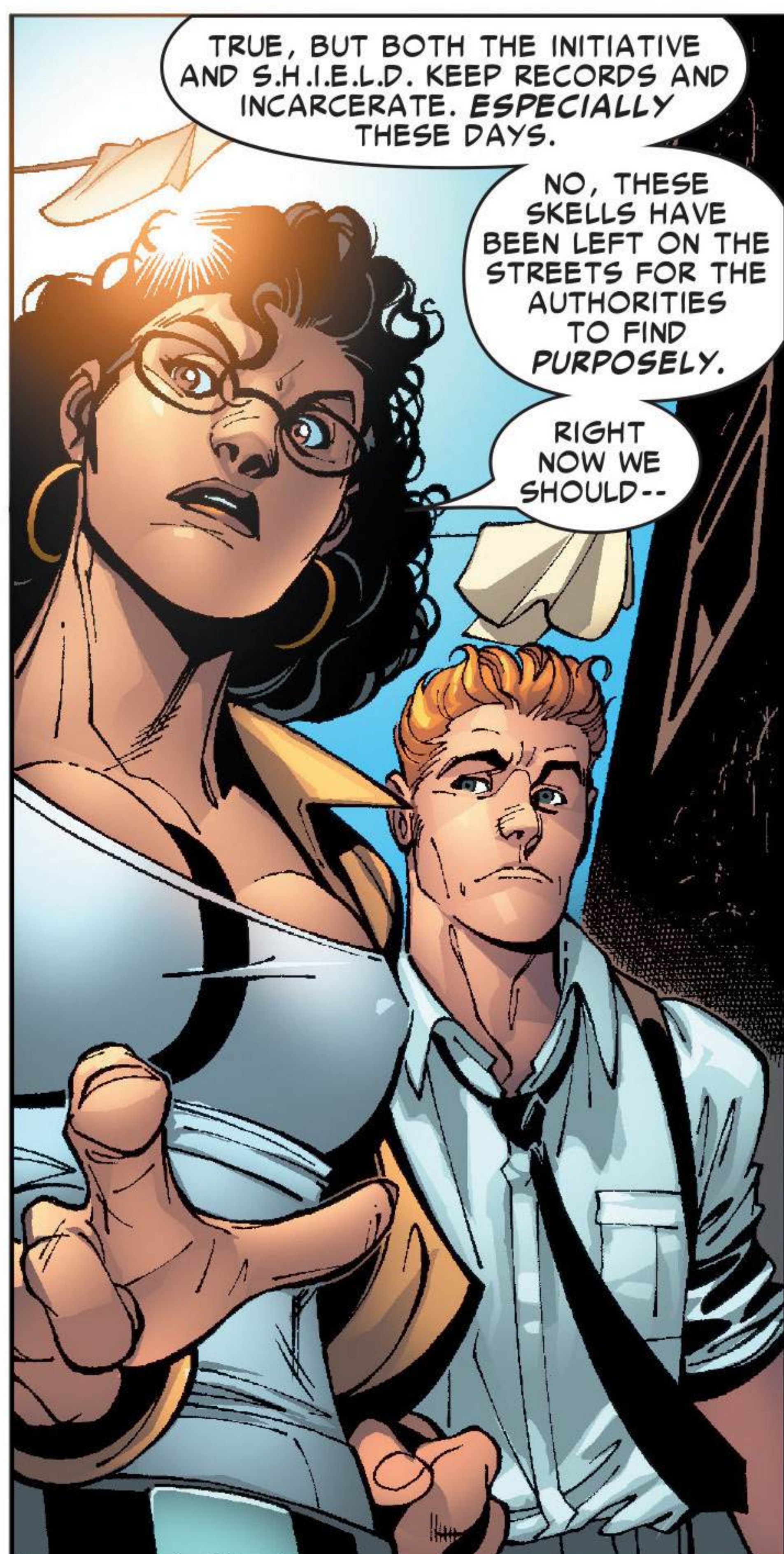
ALREADY ON ITS WAY.



Y'KNOW, IT *COULD* BE THE INITIATIVE GOING THROUGH FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES.

WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD TO THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY? I DON'T THINK SO.

FEDS DON'T NEED PERMISSION.



TRUE, BUT BOTH THE INITIATIVE AND S.H.I.E.L.D. KEEP RECORDS AND INCARCERATE. *ESPECIALLY* THESE DAYS.

NO, THESE SKELLS HAVE BEEN LEFT ON THE STREETS FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO FIND PURPOSELY.

RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD--



STEP BACK, GRANVILLE.



OFFICER,
CLEAR THE
ALLEY.

WHAT
IS IT,
BEV?

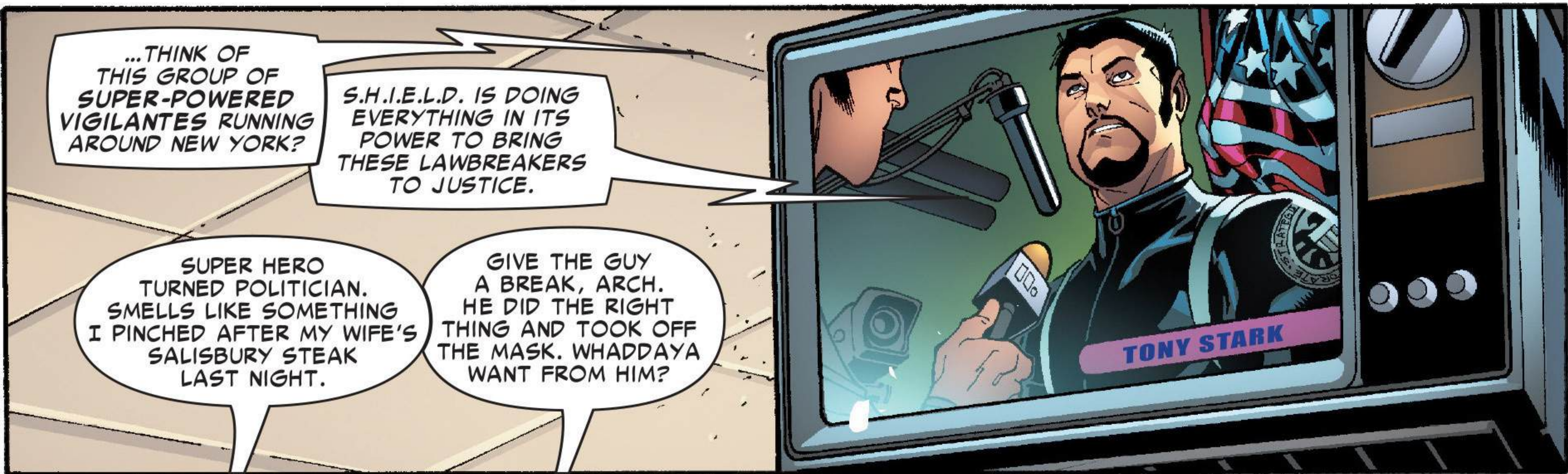


THAT.

WHAT
THE HELL
DOES THAT
MEAN?



TEN BUCKS
SAYS IT'S NOT
GOOD.

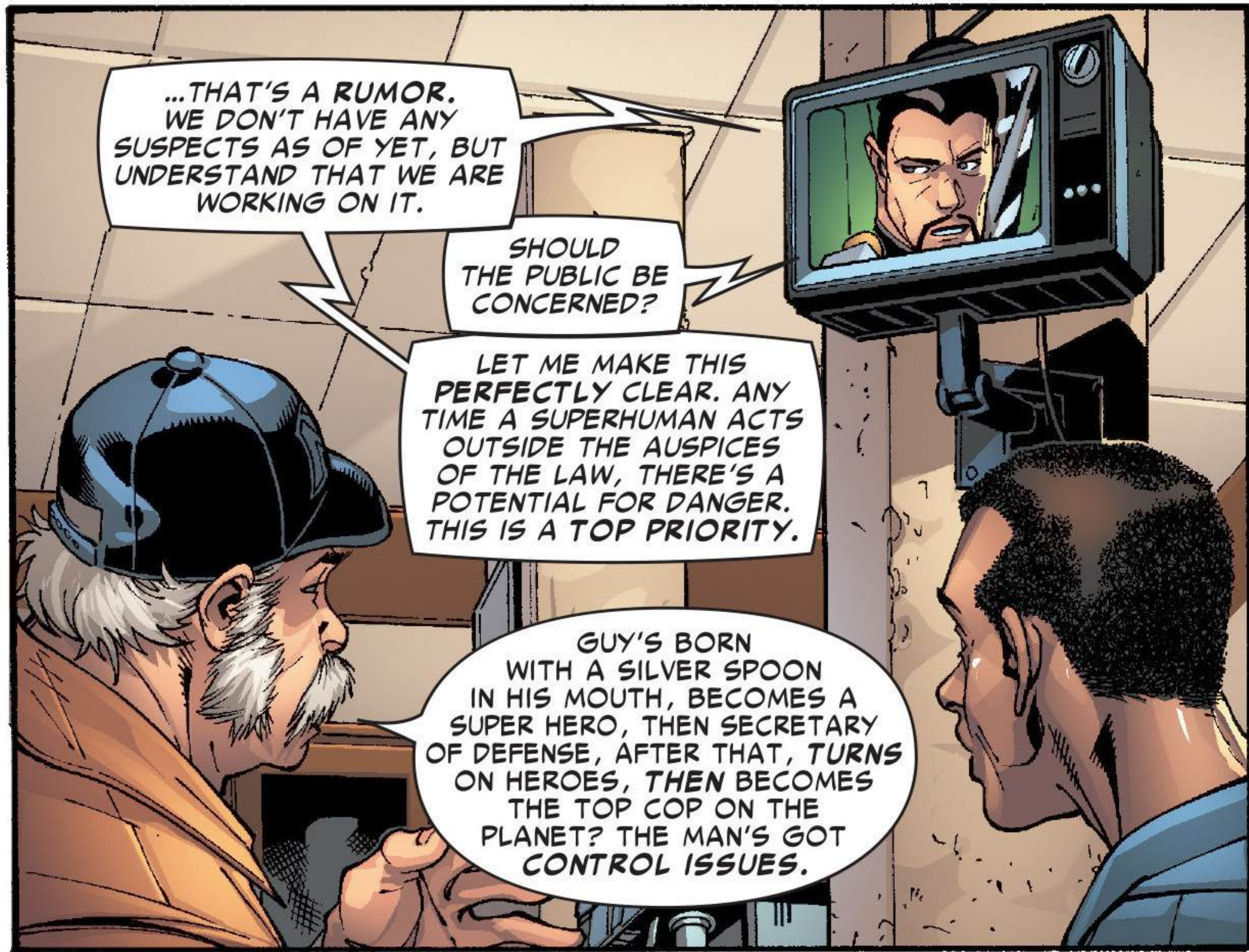


...THINK OF THIS GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED VIGILANTES RUNNING AROUND NEW YORK?

S.H.I.E.L.D. IS DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO BRING THESE LAWBREAKERS TO JUSTICE.

SUPER HERO TURNED POLITICIAN. SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING I PINCHED AFTER MY WIFE'S SALISBURY STEAK LAST NIGHT.

GIVE THE GUY A BREAK, ARCH. HE DID THE RIGHT THING AND TOOK OFF THE MASK. WHADDAYA WANT FROM HIM?



...THAT'S A RUMOR. WE DON'T HAVE ANY SUSPECTS AS OF YET, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE WORKING ON IT.

SHOULD THE PUBLIC BE CONCERNED?

LET ME MAKE THIS PERFECTLY CLEAR. ANY TIME A SUPERHUMAN ACTS OUTSIDE THE AUSPICES OF THE LAW, THERE'S A POTENTIAL FOR DANGER. THIS IS A TOP PRIORITY.

GUY'S BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HIS MOUTH, BECOMES A SUPER HERO, THEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AFTER THAT, TURNS ON HEROES, THEN BECOMES THE TOP COP ON THE PLANET? THE MAN'S GOT CONTROL ISSUES.



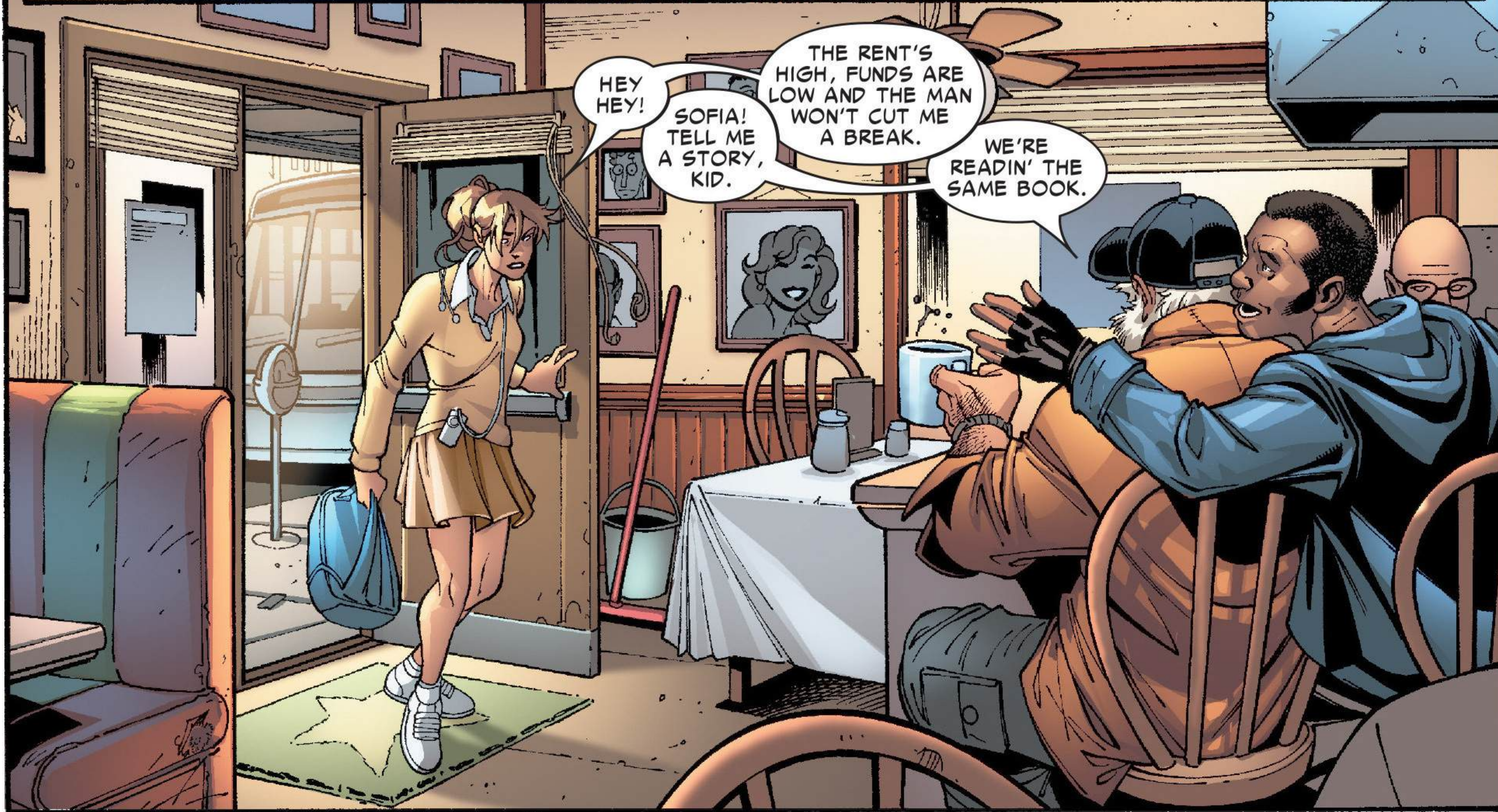
YOU'RE BEING PARANOID.

THAT DON'T MAKE ME WRONG.



PEOPLE ARE HAPPY. THEY FEEL SAFE. STARK'S A STAND-UP GUY. HE'S GOT MY VOTE FOR PRESIDENT.

YEAH. AND DON'T THINK THAT WON'T COME NEXT. YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST.



HEY HEY!

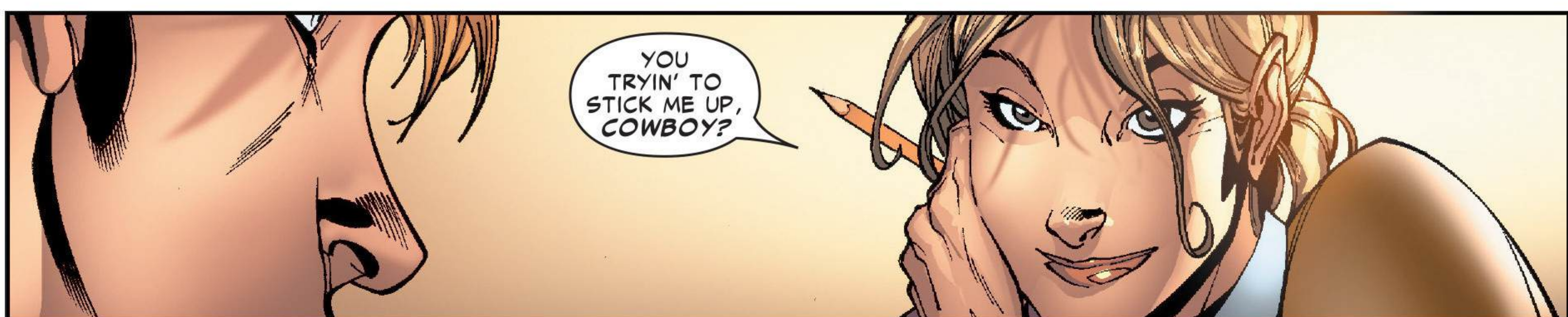
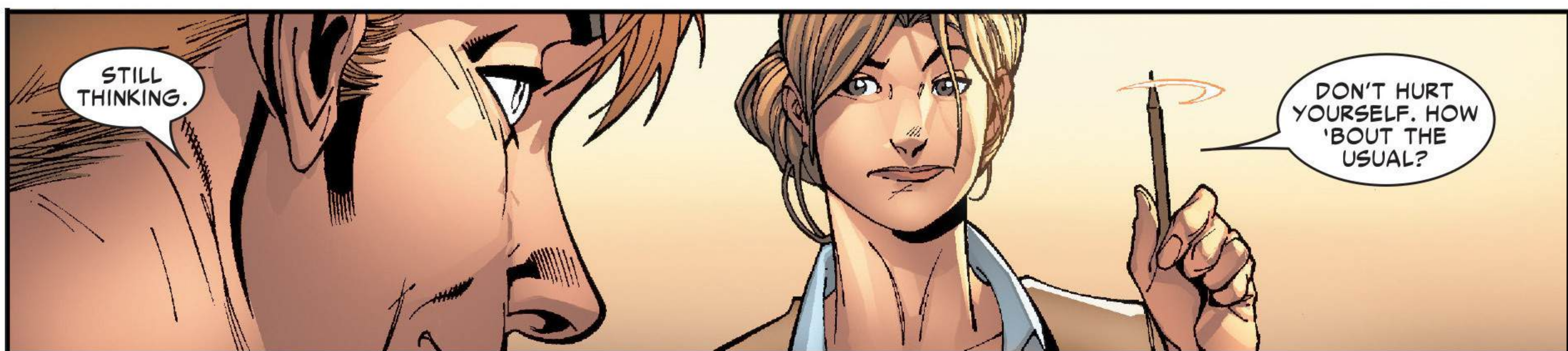
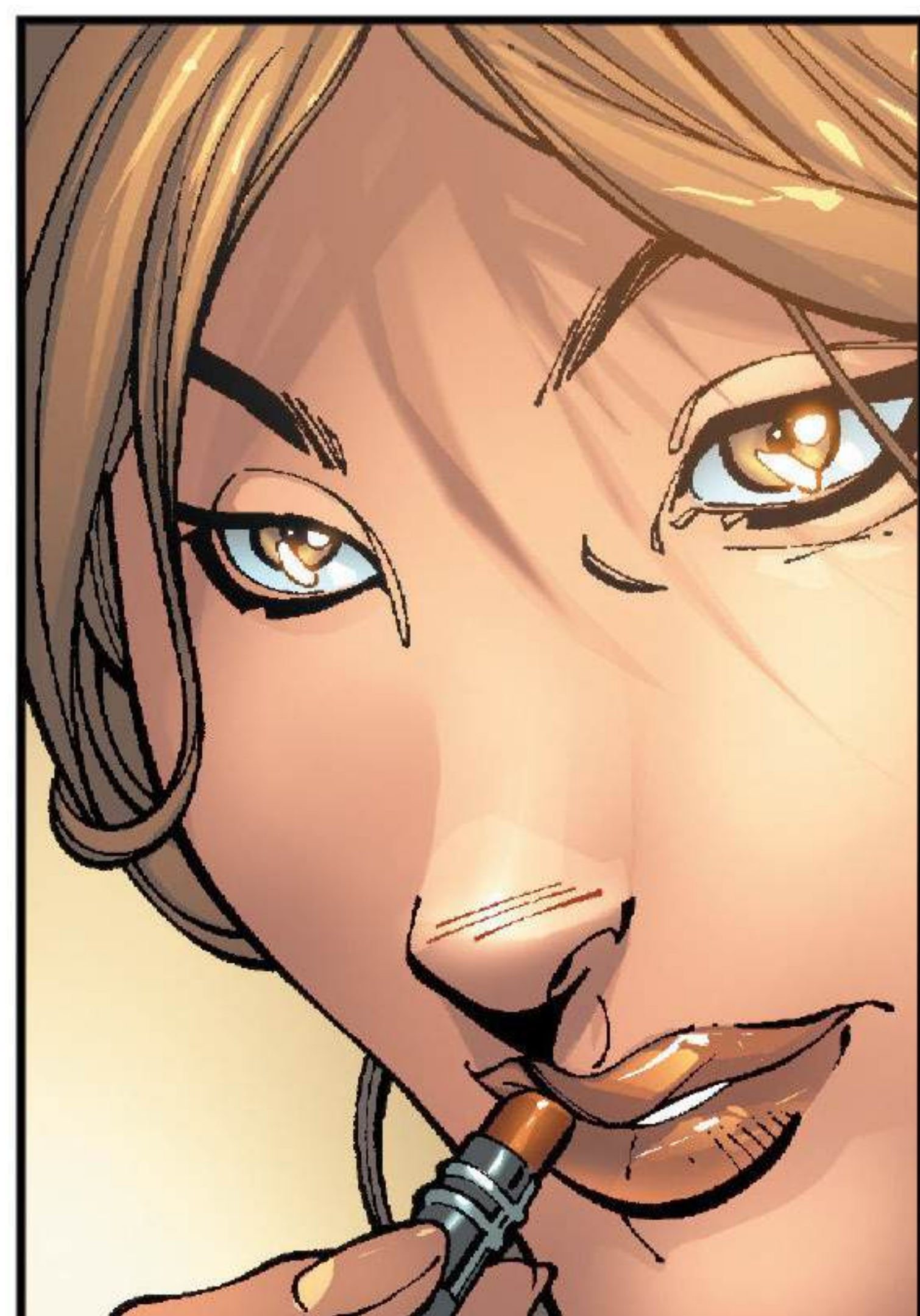
SOFIA! TELL ME A STORY, KID.

THE RENT'S HIGH, FUNDS ARE LOW AND THE MAN WON'T CUT ME A BREAK.

WE'RE READIN' THE SAME BOOK.









LATER...

BRING!



ALL RIGHT,
WHO ARE YOU AND
HOW DO YOU KNOW
MY NAME?



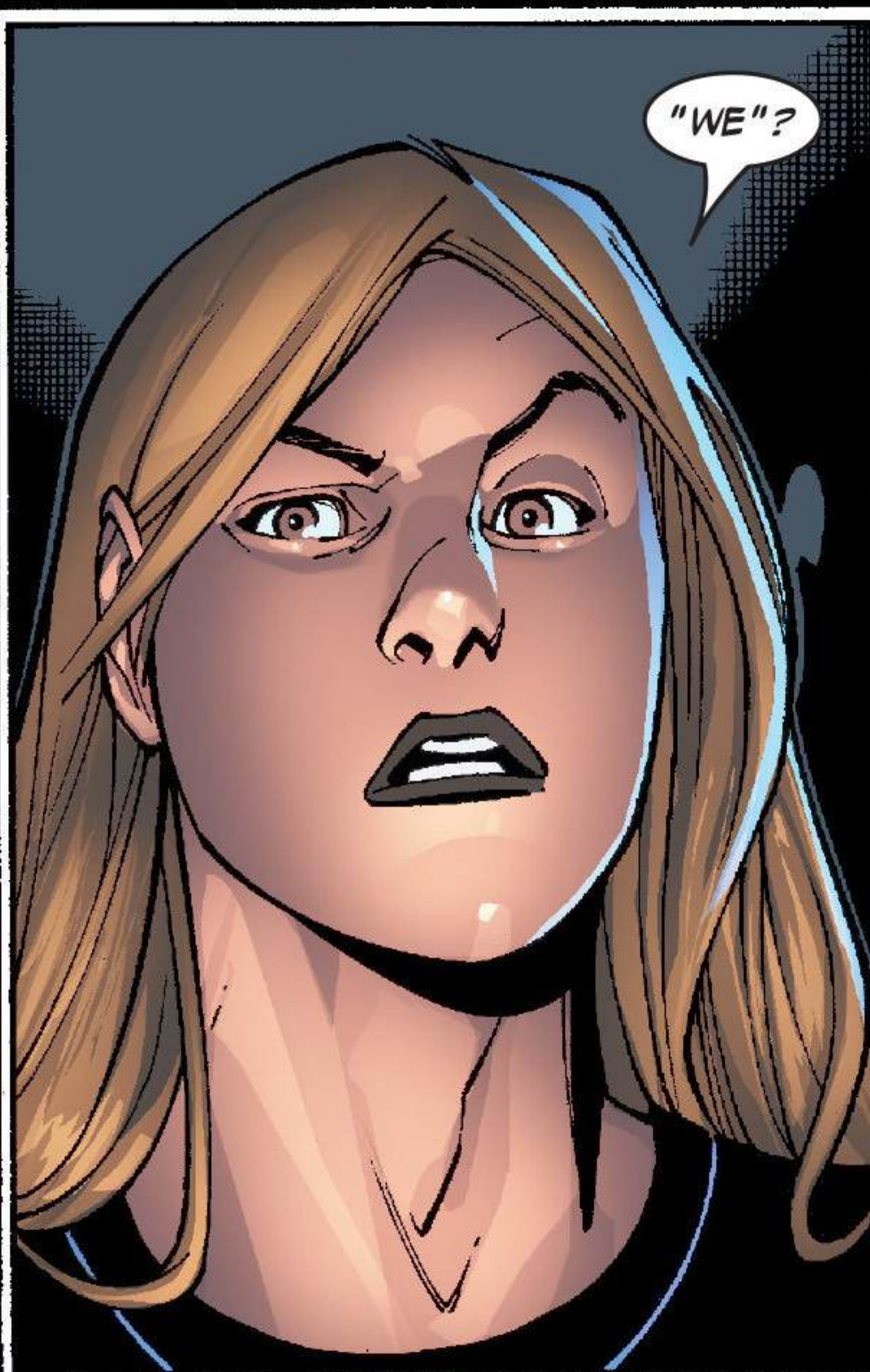
LOOK, I
DON'T RESPOND
WELL TO THE
MORPHEUS
ROUTINE.

LOL.

WE LIKE YOUR STYLE.

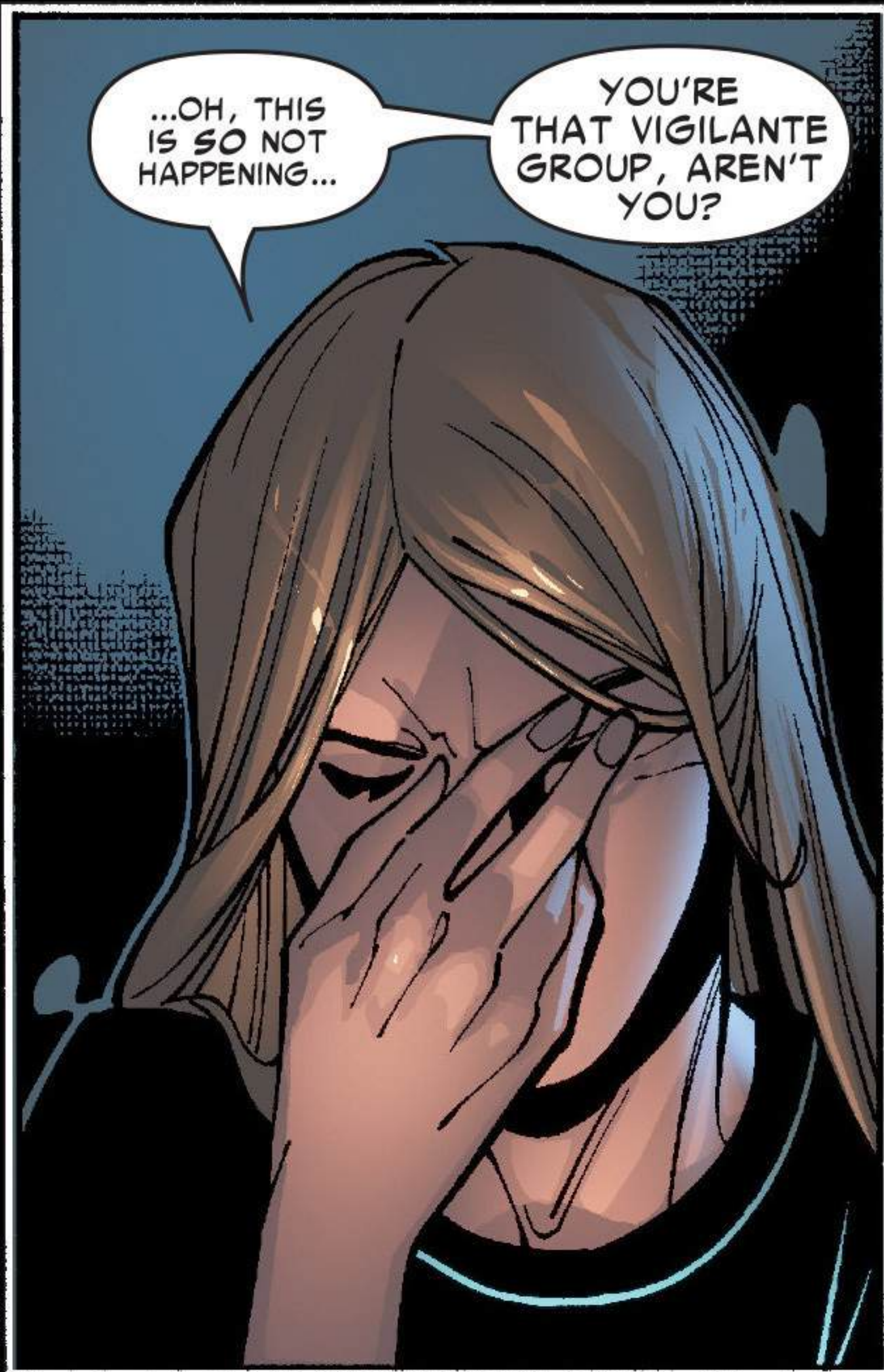
WE LIKE YOUR SPIRIT.

**AND WE KNOW WHAT'S STILL
INSIDE YOU.**

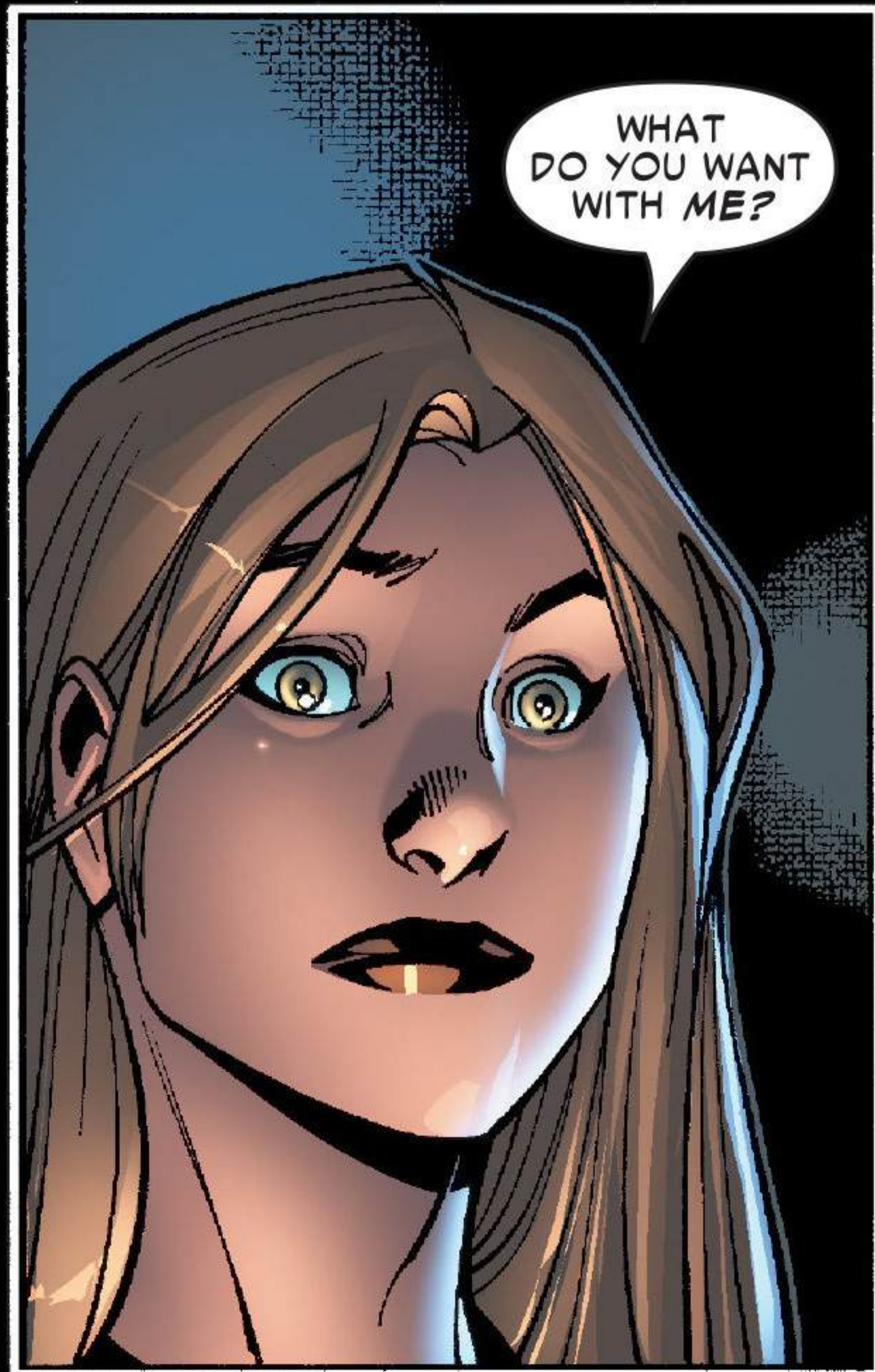


"WE"?

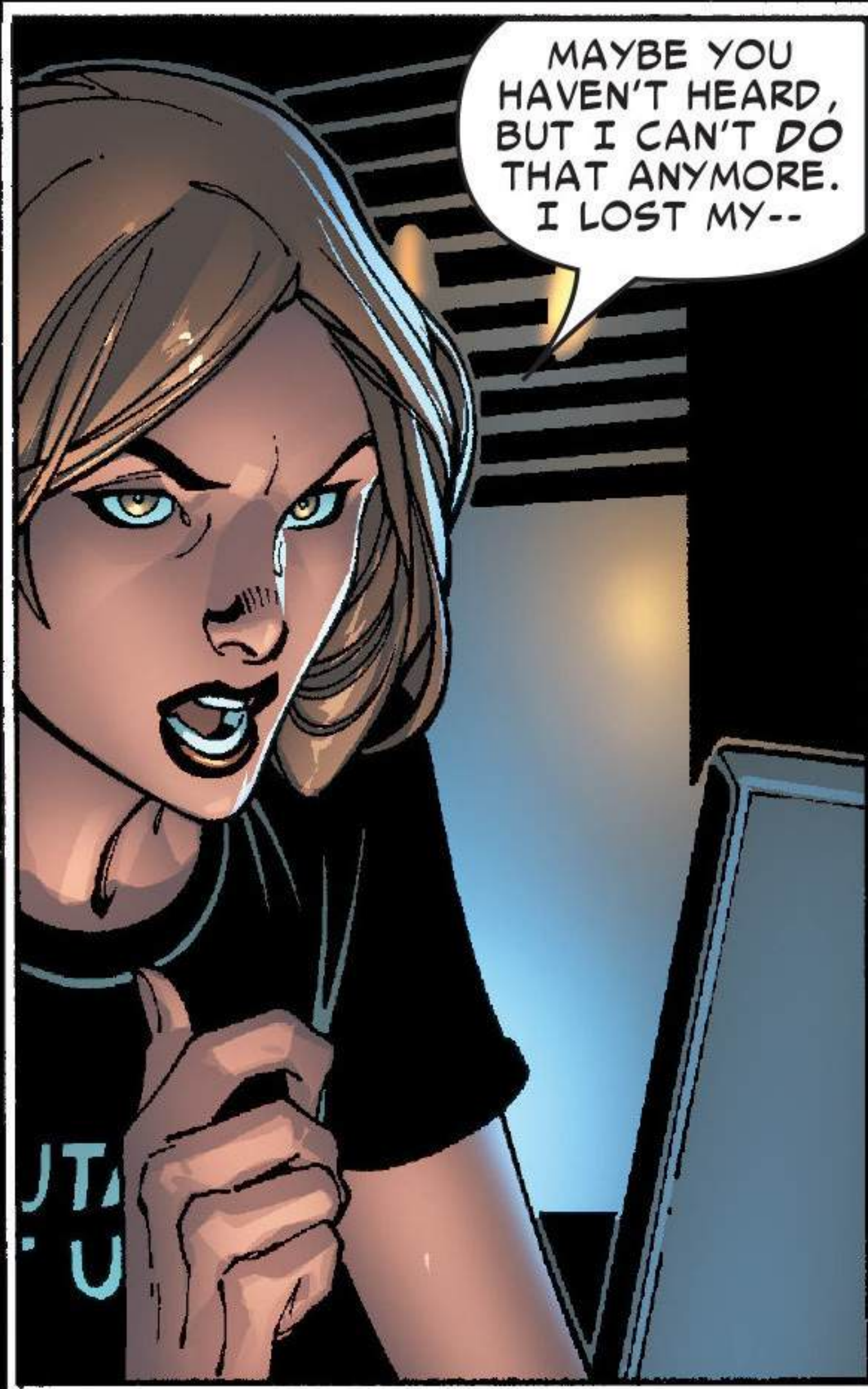
**CONCERNED CITIZENS. ACTIVE
OBSERVERS. CONSCIENTIOUS
OBJECTORS. WARRIORS
OPPOSED TO THIS
NEW WORLD ORDER.**



GIVE THE GIRL A HAPPY MEAL.



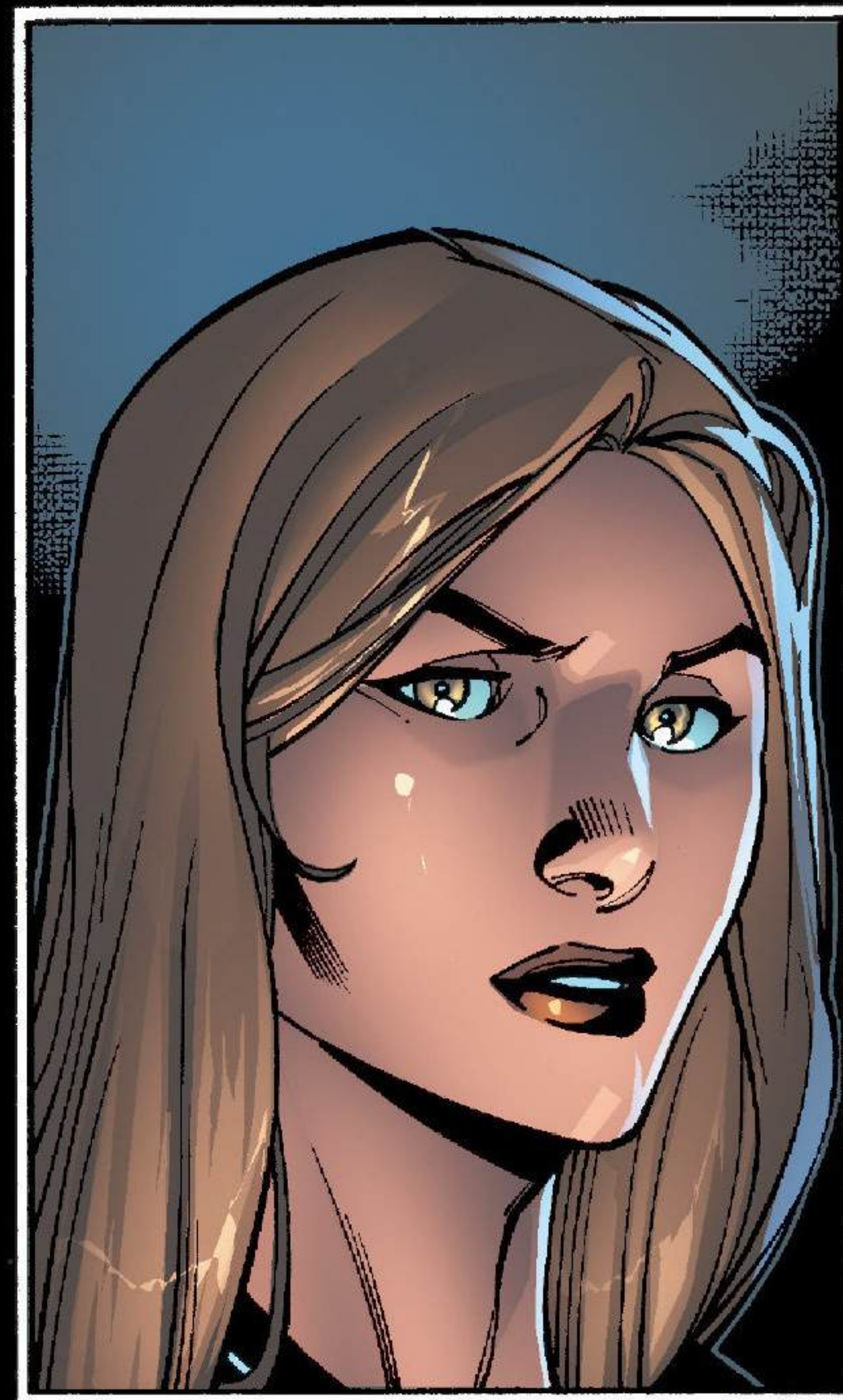
JOIN US. JOIN OUR CAUSE.

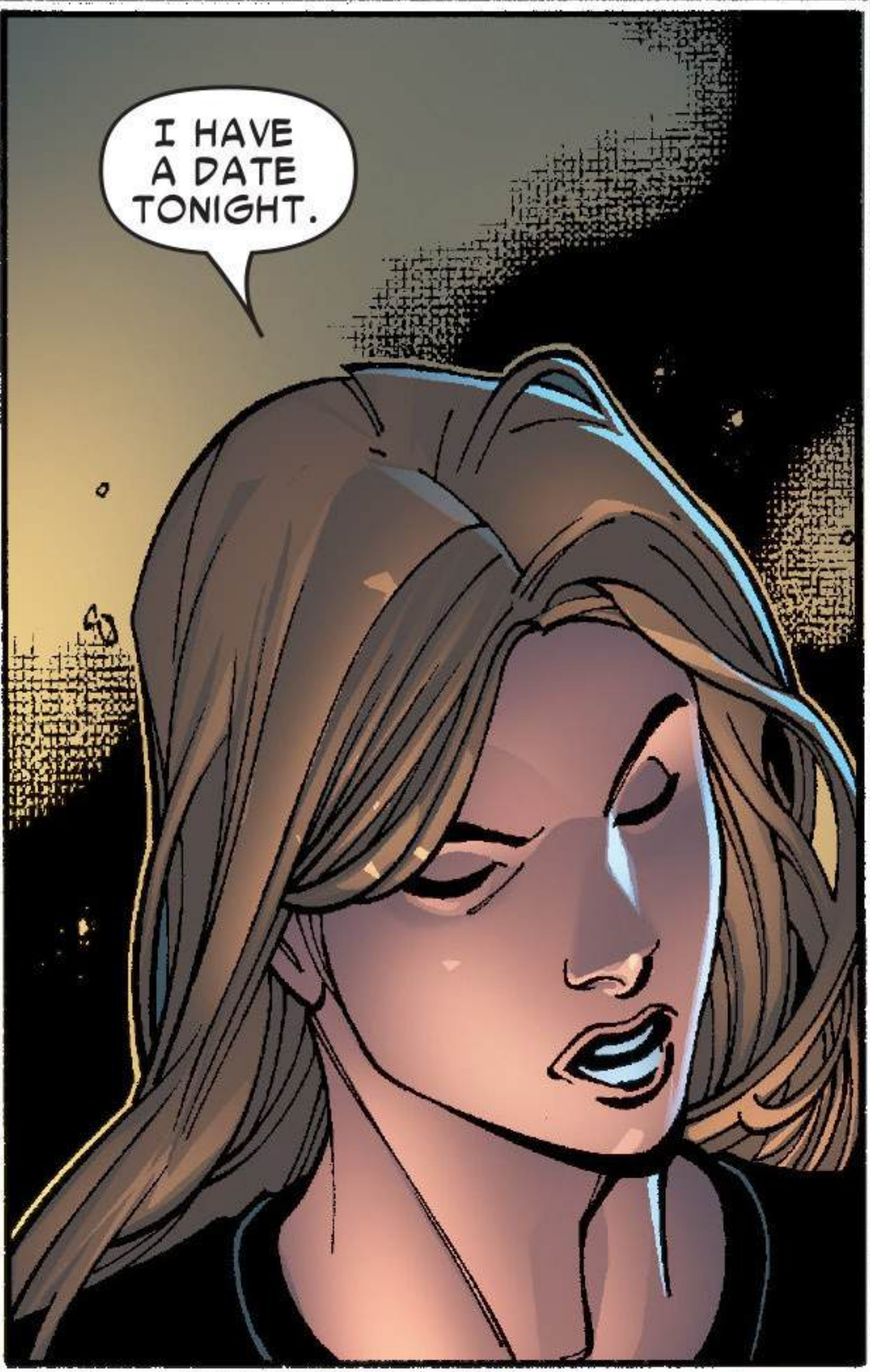


NOT ALL HEROES HAVE POWERS.



FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE.

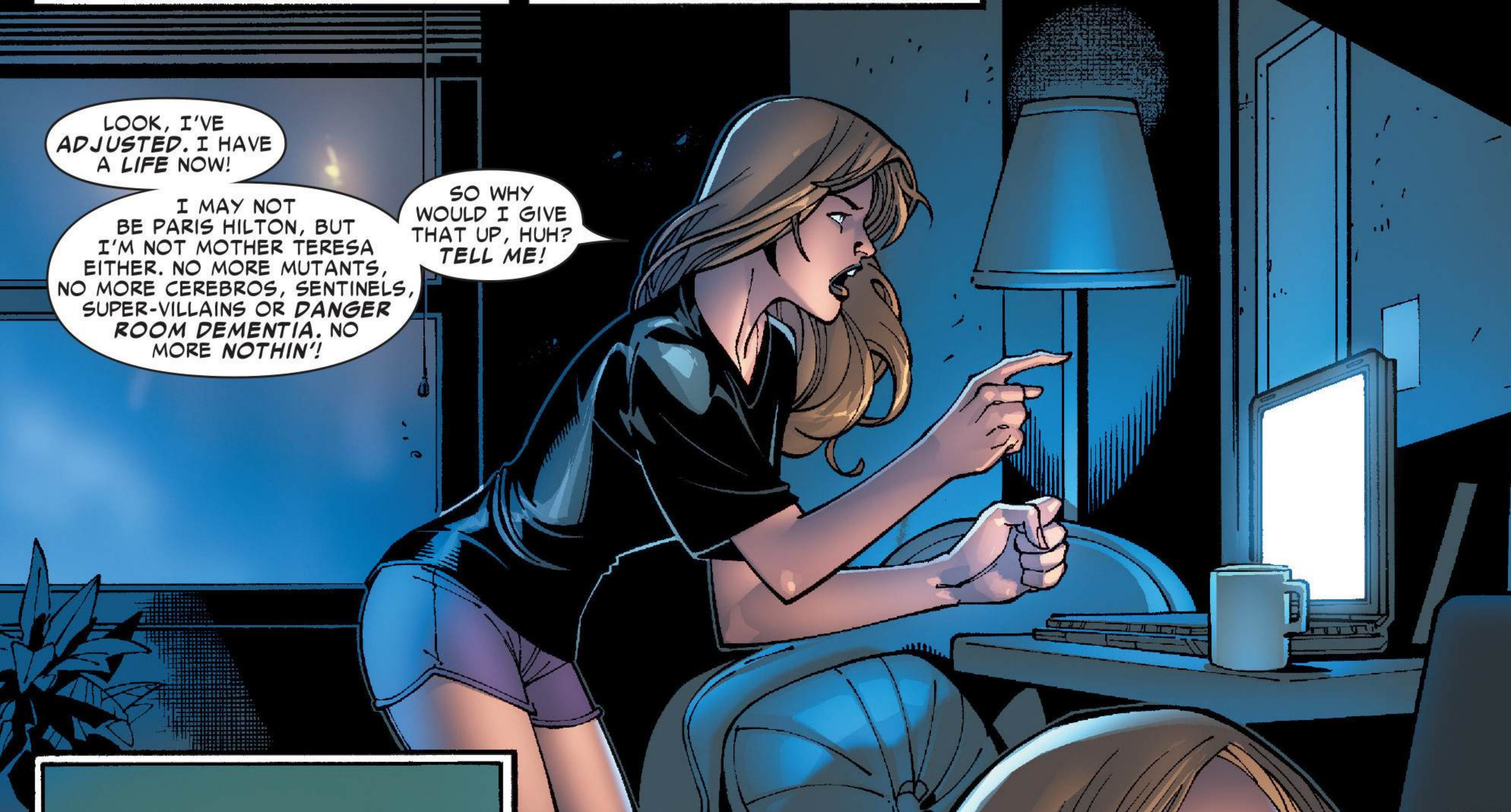




I HAVE
A DATE
TONIGHT.



BREAK IT.



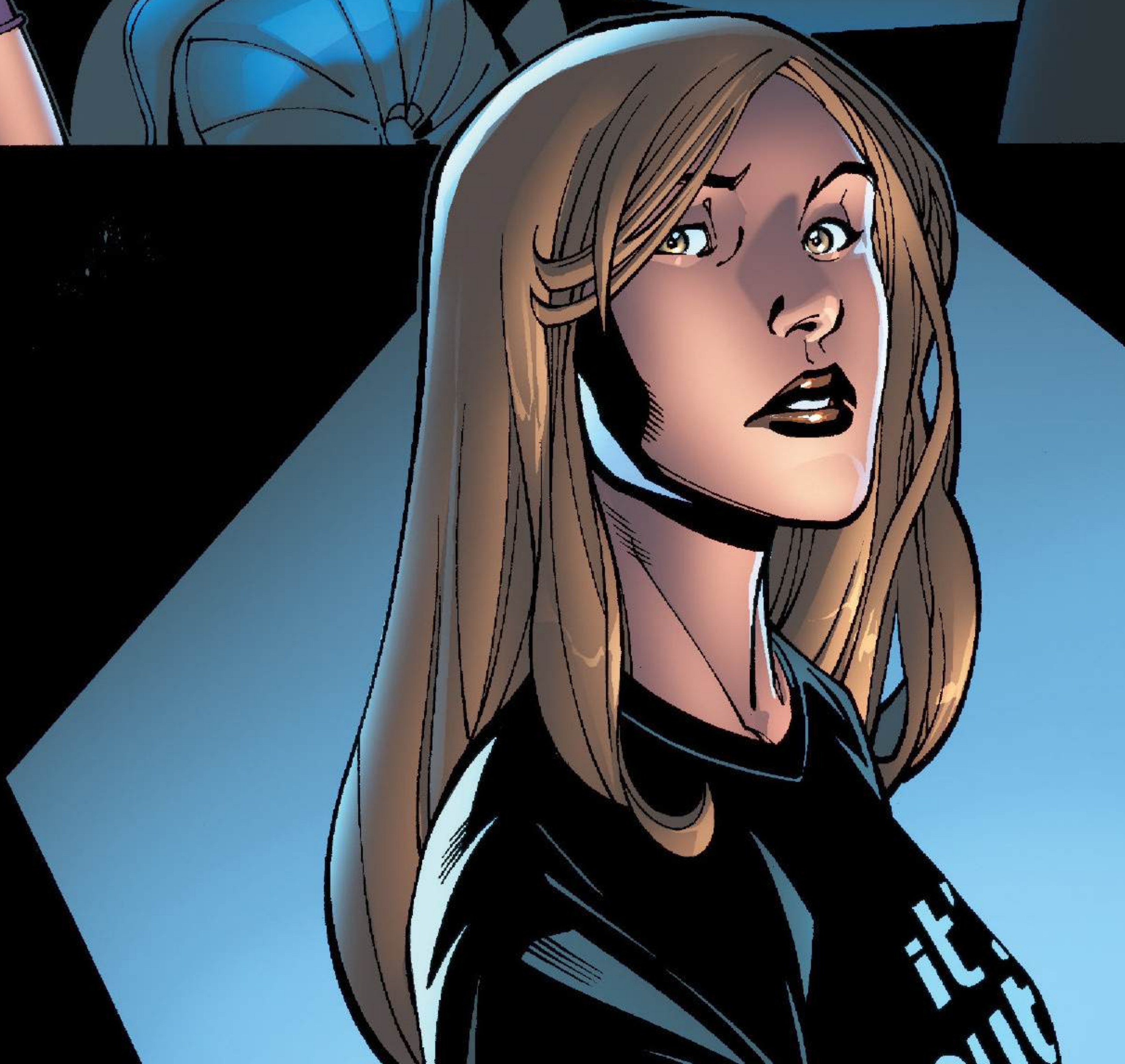
LOOK, I'VE
ADJUSTED. I HAVE
A LIFE NOW!

I MAY NOT
BE PARIS HILTON, BUT
I'M NOT MOTHER TERESA
EITHER. NO MORE MUTANTS,
NO MORE CEREBROS, SENTINELS,
SUPER-VILLAINS OR *DANGER*
ROOM DEMENTIA. NO
MORE NOTHIN'!

SO WHY
WOULD I GIVE
THAT UP, HUH?
TELL ME!



BECAUSE YOU WANT TO.



MEANWHILE...

I HAVE TO ADMIT--IT **DOES** LOOK LIKE THE REAL MCCOY. IT'S EVEN STARTING TO DEGRADE.



HAVE FORENSICS GET A SAMPLE AND RUN AN ASSAY.



THIS IS THE FOURTH VILLAIN WE'VE FOUND TRUSSED UP IN AS MANY WEEKS. AND NOW WE'VE GOT THIS ONE-- WRAPPED IN WHAT SEEM TO BE SPIDER-MAN'S WEBS.



WHAT AN IDIOT. YOU'D THINK HE'D KNOW BETTER WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO CAPTAIN AMERICA AND ALL.

LET'S NOT GO LICKIN' EACH OTHER'S LOLLIPOPS JUST YET. THIS ISN'T A DONE DEAL.

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.

Y'KNOW GIVENS, I WISH I HAD SOME.



LATER...

SOFIA?

BARRY?
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE? I TOLD
YOU I
COULDN'T
MAKE IT
TONIGHT.

WHY DON'T
WE TAKE A WALK?
THERE'S SOMEONE
I WANT YOU
TO MEET.

"MEET" ...?

WAIT A MINUTE.
YOU'RE NOT--

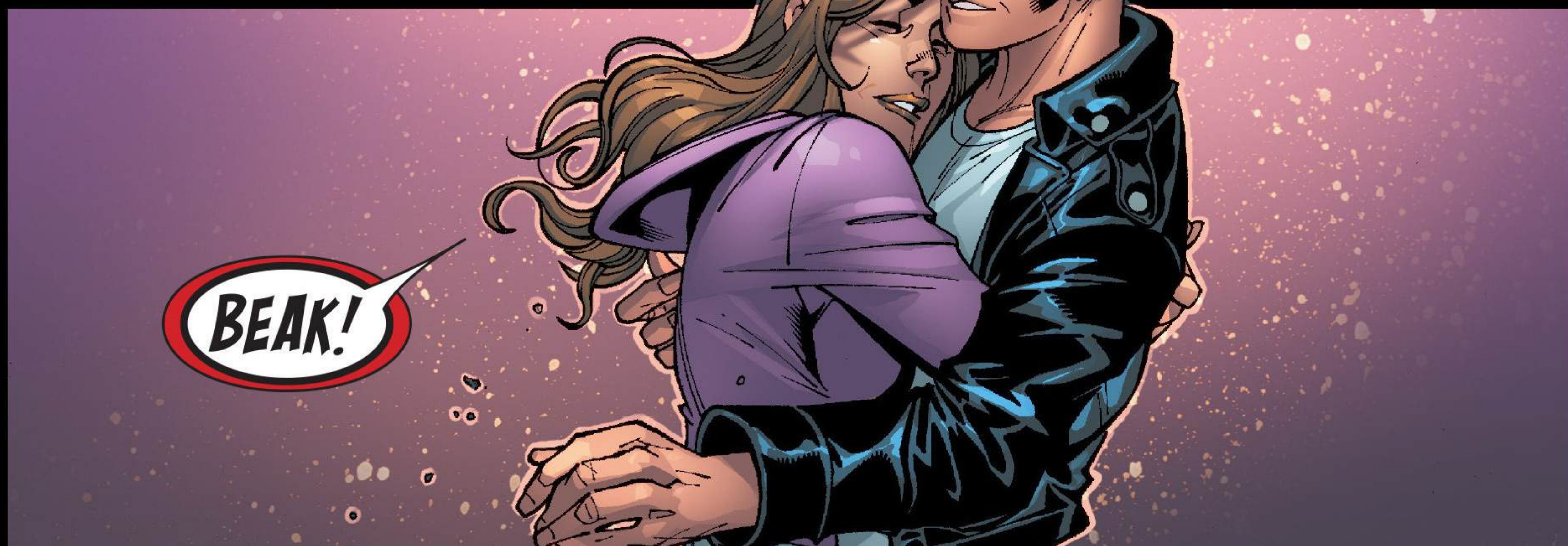
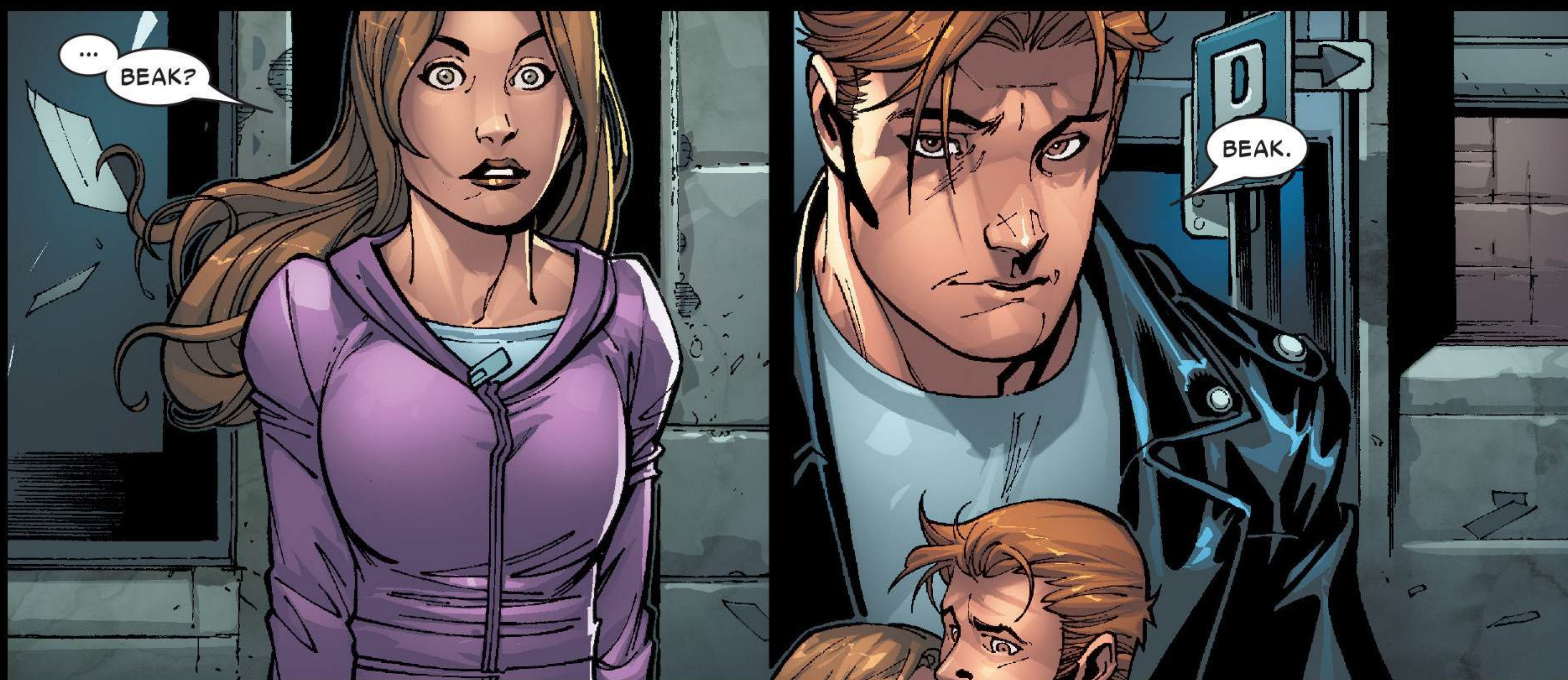
KRACKK!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I FELL
FOR IT! ALL THIS
TIME, YOU'VE BEEN
USING ME.

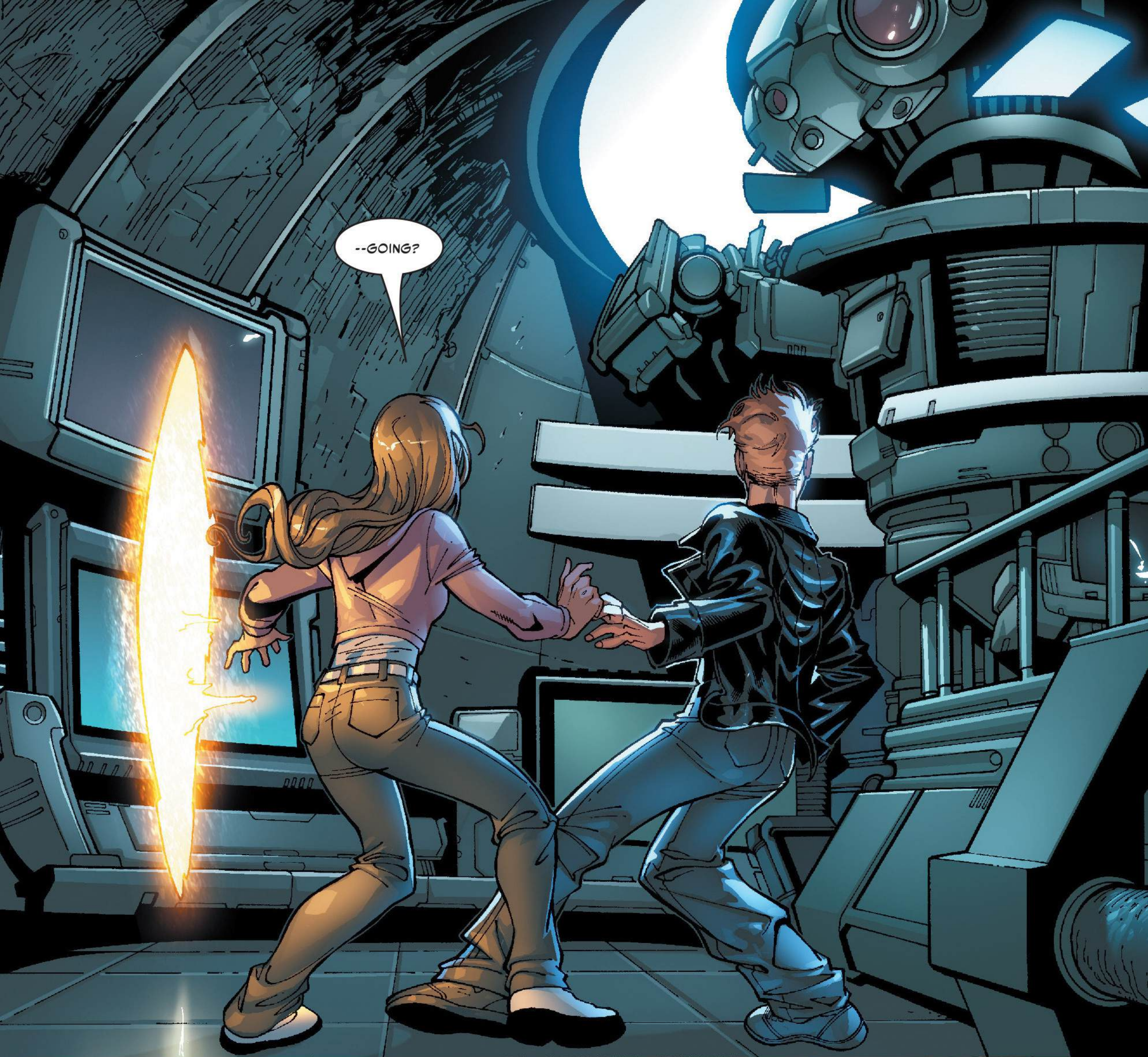
NOT
EXACTLY.

WE'RE
ACTUALLY
FRIENDS.

YOU'RE NO
FRIEND OF MINE.
I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN.







--GOING?



WOULD
IT BE OKAY
IF WE, LIKE,
NEVER DO THAT
AGAIN...?

DON'T
WORRY. MADE
ME WOOLY THE
FIRST TIME,
TOO.



HELLO,
SOFIA...



BUT
YOU'RE...
DEAD.

...GLAD
YOU COULD
MAKE IT.

DEFIANT

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MARVEL

2

THE INITIATIVE™



**GREVIOUX
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA**

PREVIOUSLY...

SOMEONE IS GIFT-WRAPPING SUPER-VILLAINS FOR THE POLICE. SOMEONE IS DEFACING SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION POSTERS. SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE NYPD COSTUMED DIVISION STUMPED. AND THE ONLY CLUE TO THEIR IDENTITIES? A SINGLE PHRASE, SPRAY-PAINTED ON THE FLOOR OF AN ALLEY: **THE NEW WARRIORS WERE HERE.**

IN THE WAKE OF M-DAY, NEW X-MAN SOFIA MANTEGA, A.K.A. WIND DANCER, WAS STRIPPED OF HER MUTANT POWERS. HOPING TO CARVE OUT A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF, SOFIA LEFT THE X-MEN BEHIND, AND FOUND HERSELF A JOB AS A WAITRESS IN NEW YORK CITY.

HOWEVER, AS SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION BECOMES LAW, SHE FEELS HER FORMER LIFE BECKONING TO HER. IT STARTED WITH A RECURRING NIGHTMARE, FOLLOWED BY A CRYPTIC CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO GET HER ATTENTION. AND NOW, SHE'S STANDING FACE-TO-FACE WITH A FAMILIAR FIGURE BACK FROM THE GRAVE...
FROM THE ASHES OF STAMFORD: NIGHT THRASHER.



NEW WARRIORS

DEFIANT Part Two

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THEY DIDN'T
LIKE THE
ANSWER.

MARLENE STANSFIELD

...IN OTHER NEWS,
TENSIONS ARE HIGH AROUND
THE COUNTRY WITH THE
EMERGENCE--OR BETTER YET,
THE RE-EMERGENCE--OF A TEAM
OF GONE, BUT DEFINITELY NOT
FORGOTTEN, SUPER HEROES:
THE NEW WARRIORS.

BUT IT
WAS SIMPLE
MATH.

WHETHER THIS
SUPER-GROUP IS
ACTUALLY THE INFAMOUS
TEAM OF OLD OR AN
ENTIRELY NEW ONE,
HAS YET TO
BE DETERMINED.

MARLENE STANSFIELD

A LINEAR
EQUATION WHERE
 $Y = MX + B$.

AS YOU KNOW, THE
ORIGINAL NEW WARRIORS
WERE A GROUP OF
SUPER-POWERED TEENAGERS
WHO WERE KILLED IN THE TRAGEDY
AT STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT,
RESULTING IN THE SLAUGHTER
OF 612 CIVILIANS.

THEIR DEATHS AT THE
HANDS OF THE SUPER-VILLAIN
NITRO TOUCHED OFF A
FIRESTORM OF PUBLIC OUTCRY
THAT LED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SUPERHUMAN
REGISTRATION ACT.

MARLENE STANSFIELD

NEW WARRIORS
KILLERS?

YOU CHANGE
THE VALUE
OF "X"...

WHICH, IN TURN,
PRECIPITATED THE SO-CALLED
CIVIL WAR AMONGST THE
COUNTRY'S SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY.
THE CONFLICT RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD
VIOLENCE, DESTRUCTION AND,
ULTIMATELY, THE DEATH OF THE
LEADER OF THE ANTI-REGISTRATION
MOVEMENT, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

...YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE CHANGE OF "Y".

THIS IS OUR FIRST PICTURE OF A NEW WARRIORS TEAM MEMBER. A YOUNG WOMAN OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH IS SEEN HERE SAVING A SCHOOL BUS FULL OF CHILDREN AT THE SCENE OF A HORRIFIC FREIGHT TRAIN ACCIDENT.

THEY WEREN'T.

NO ONE KNOWS THE IDENTITY OF THE YOUNG WOMAN, BUT BY MOST REPORTS, HER TIMELY ACTIONS SAVED MANY LIVES.

HUH.

THESE KIDS GOT HEART, I'LL GIVE THEM THAT.

WAITAMINUTE.

WHAT?

LOGAN... WHAT'S GOING ON?

DON'T WAIT UP.



APPEARING ROUGHLY A MONTH AGO, THESE YOUNG, UNREGISTERED HEROES HAVE MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT AROUND THE COUNTRY, APPREHENDING SEVERAL AT-LARGE SUPER-VILLAINS--



--FOILING THREE BANK ROBBERIES, QUELLING A POTENTIAL GANG WAR IN LOS ANGELES, AND EVEN FINDING TIME TO SAVE A CAT OR TWO FROM TREES.



NO ONE KNOWS WHO THESE VIGILANTES ARE, BUT THEIR CALLING CARD HAS BECOME A SYMBOL THAT'S CAPTURED THE ATTENTION AND IMAGINATION OF YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



THE SCOPE OF THE NEW WARRIORS PHENOMENON IS PERHAPS BEST MEASURED BY A TELLING STATISTIC: THEY ARE THE NUMBER ONE SEARCH TOPIC ON GOOGLE, YAHOO AND MSN.COM.



FROM TAGGING TO BLOGGING, THEIR MESSAGE IS CLEAR: RESISTANCE.



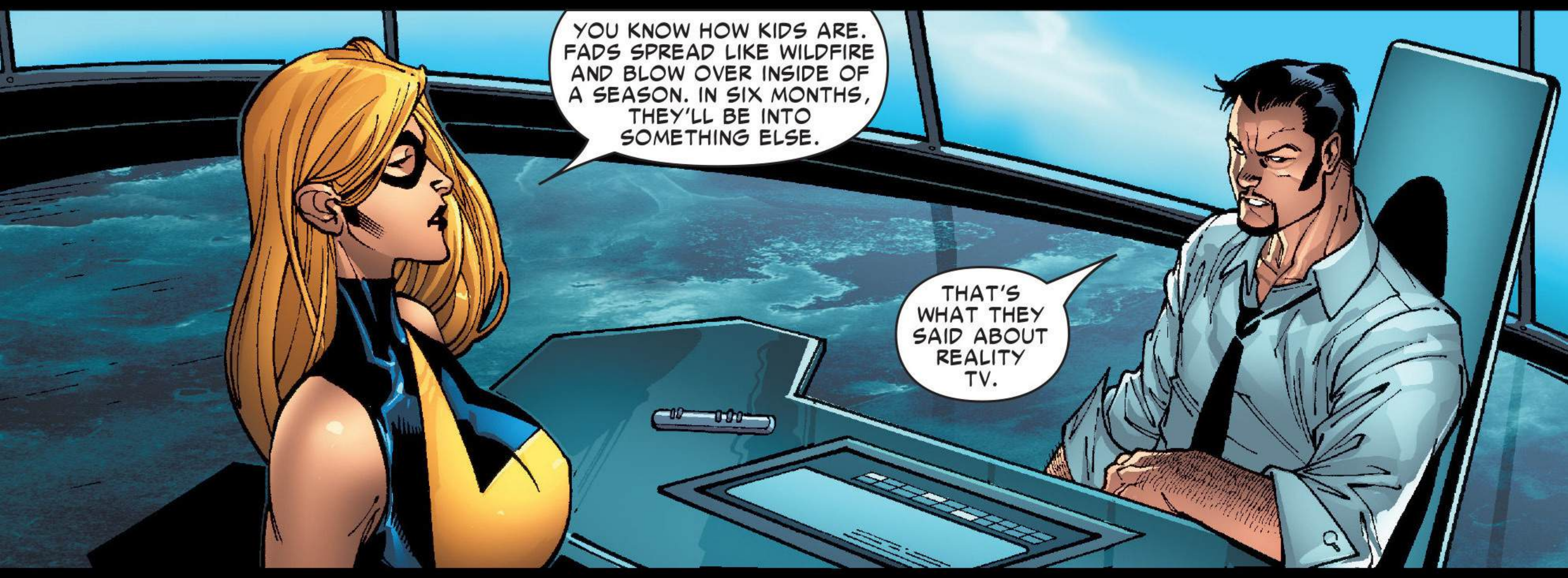
HOW LONG WILL THESE NEW NEW WARRIORS BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE LONG ARM OF AUTHORITY? NO ONE KNOWS.

THIS IS MARLENE STANSFIELD FOR CNN NEWS.



THESE KIDS ARE GOING TO GET THEMSELVES KILLED.

OR WORSE: SOMEONE ELSE KILLED.



YOU KNOW HOW KIDS ARE. FADS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE AND BLOW OVER INSIDE OF A SEASON. IN SIX MONTHS, THEY'LL BE INTO SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT REALITY TV.



ON TOP OF EVERYTHING, THEY HAVE THE NERVE TO CALL THEMSELVES THE "NEW WARRIORS."

WHAT KIND OF INTEL DO WE HAVE ON THEM?



NOT MUCH. PREVIOUS NEW WARRIORS ARE EITHER DEAD OR ACCOUNTED FOR.

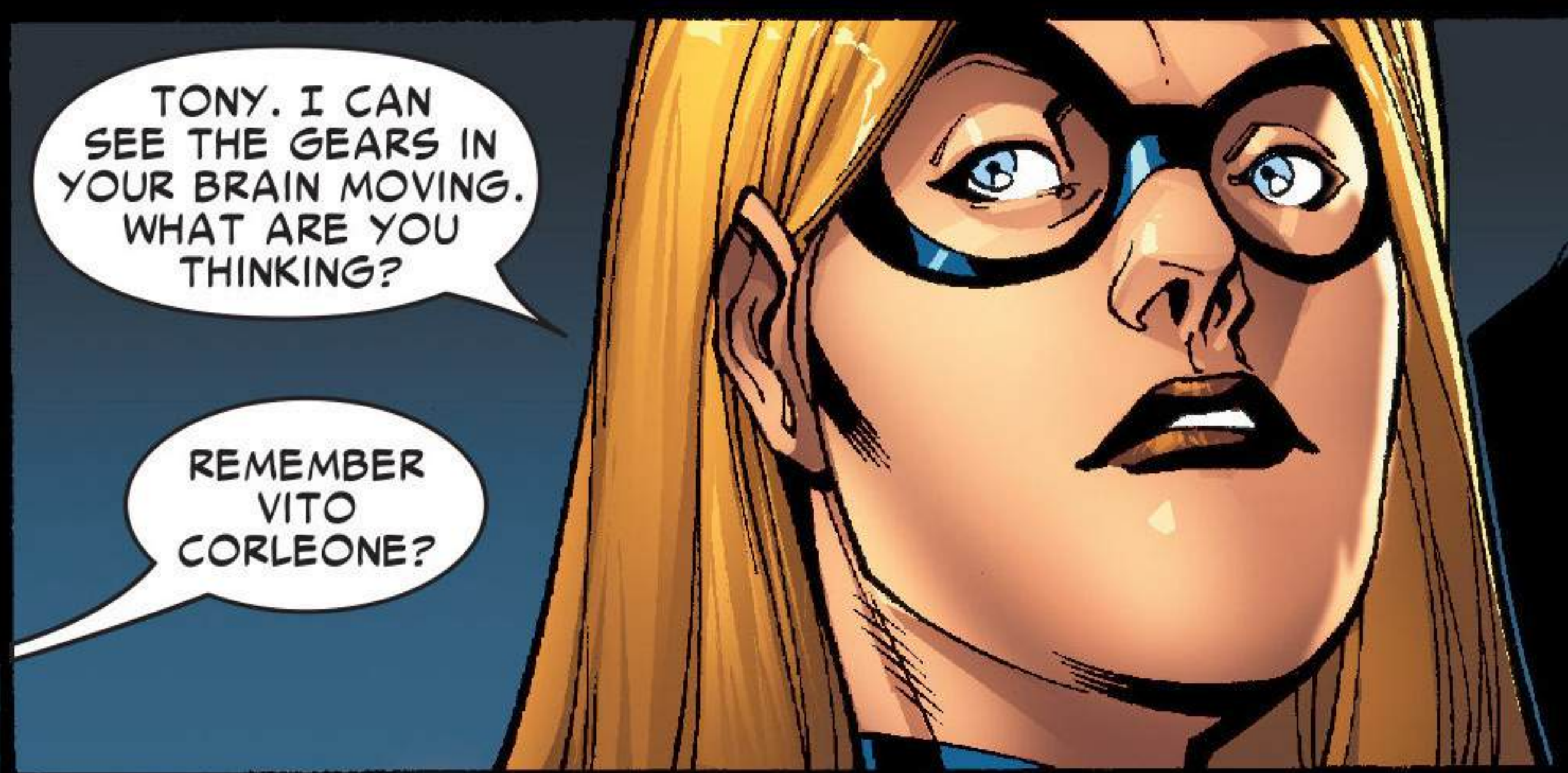
WHO'S NOT ON THOSE LISTS?



HELIX, FIRESTAR, A FEW OTHERS. WE SHOULD START THERE.

AND WE'RE SURE NONE OF THE ALLEGED DECEASED HAVE SURVIVED?

AS SURE AS WE CAN BE.

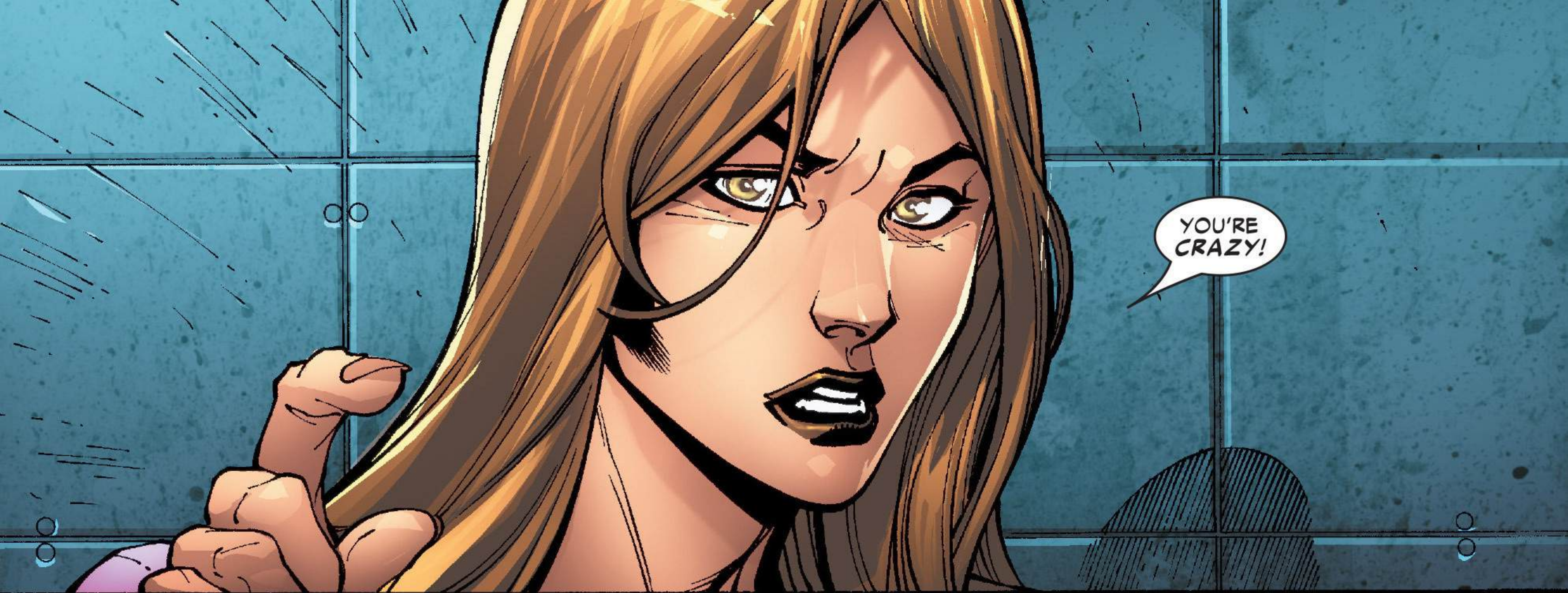


TONY. I CAN SEE THE GEARS IN YOUR BRAIN MOVING. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

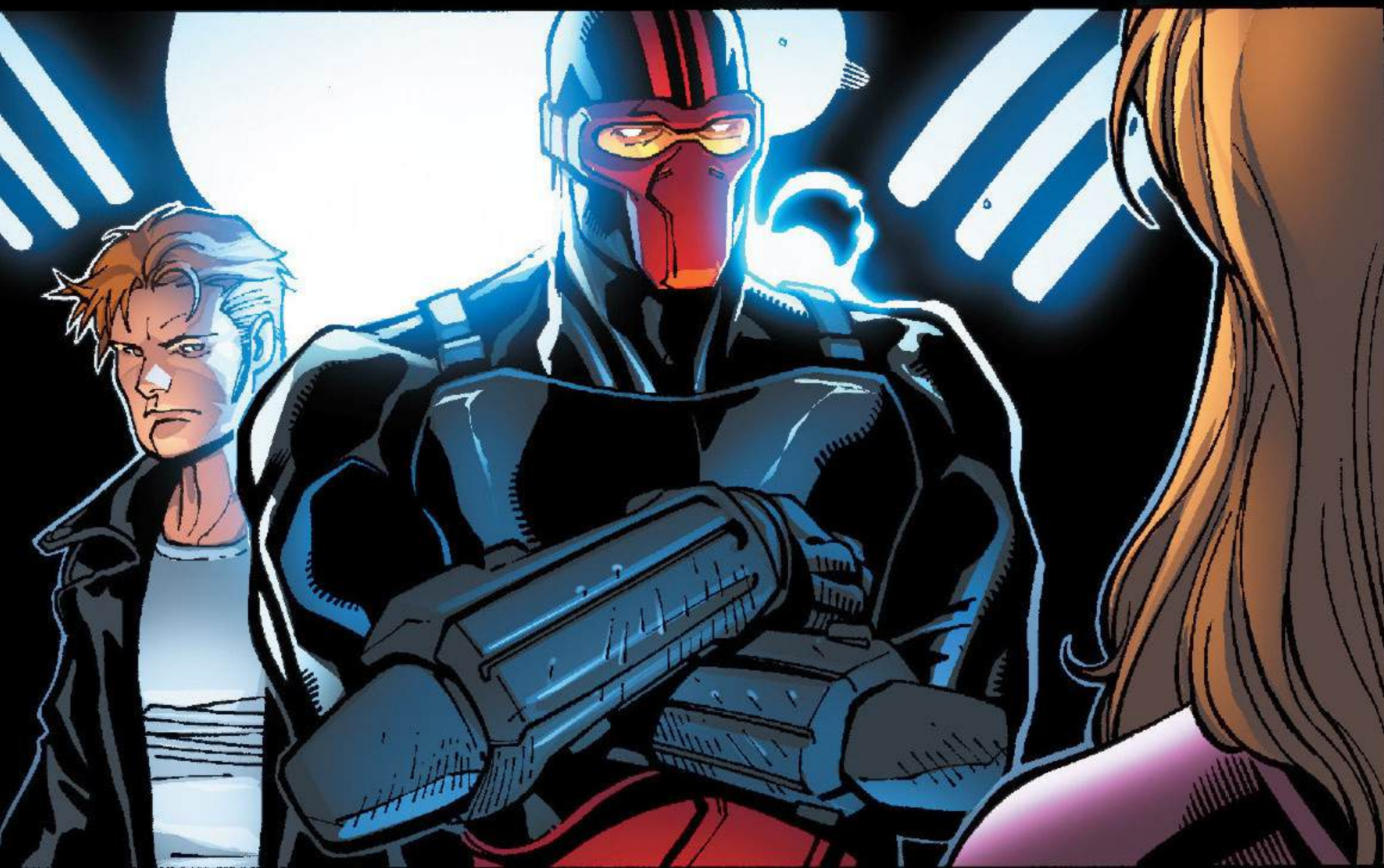
REMEMBER VITO CORLEONE?



I'LL MAKE THEM AN OFFER THEY CAN'T REFUSE.



YOU'RE
CRAZY!



WHAT?
I AM
NOT JOINING
YOUR NEW
WARRIORS!



EVERY
REVOLUTION
REQUIRES
SOMEONE WITH
VISION, SOFIA.

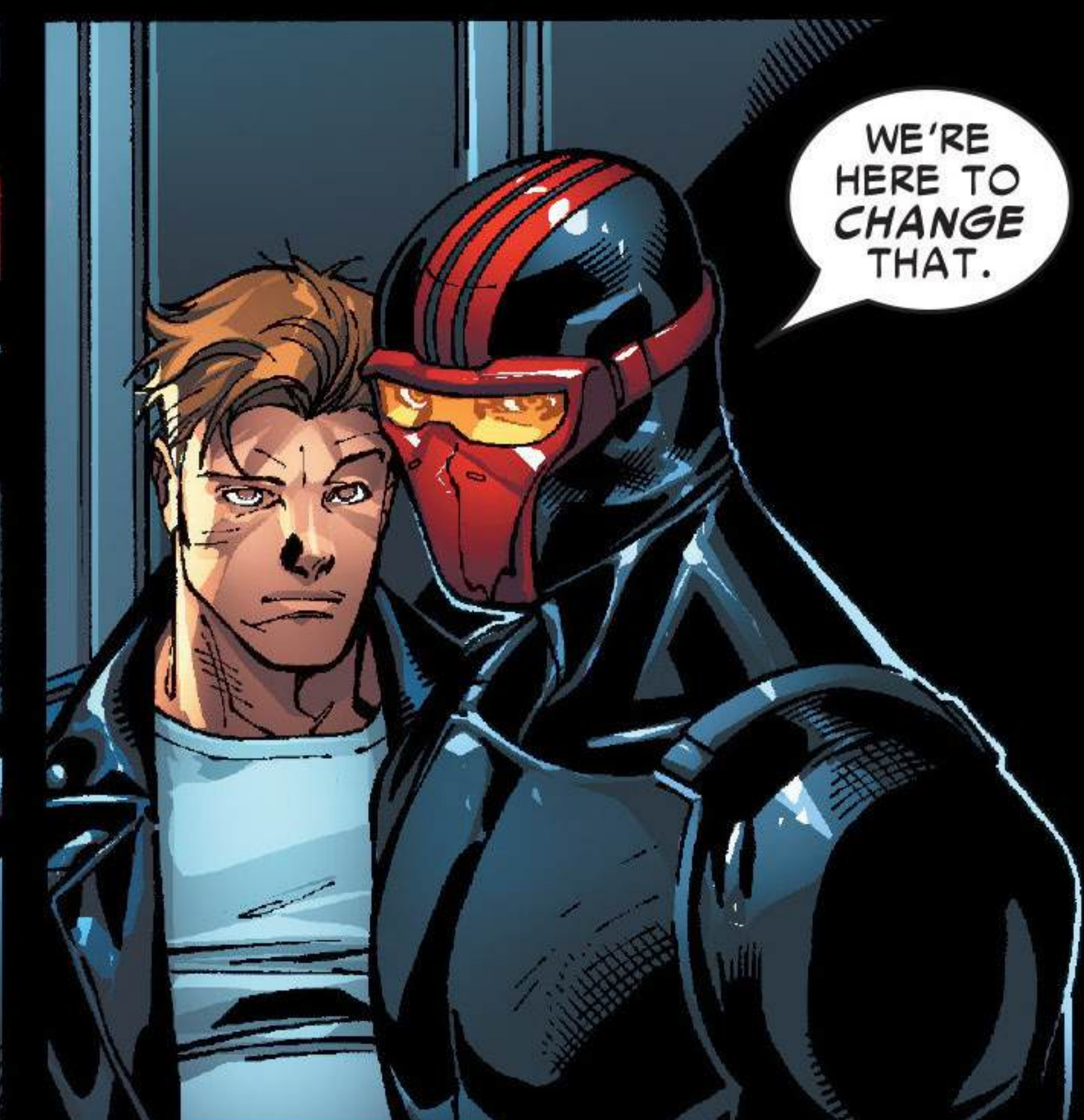


YOU SAW
IT WHEN YOU
WERE AN
X-MAN...

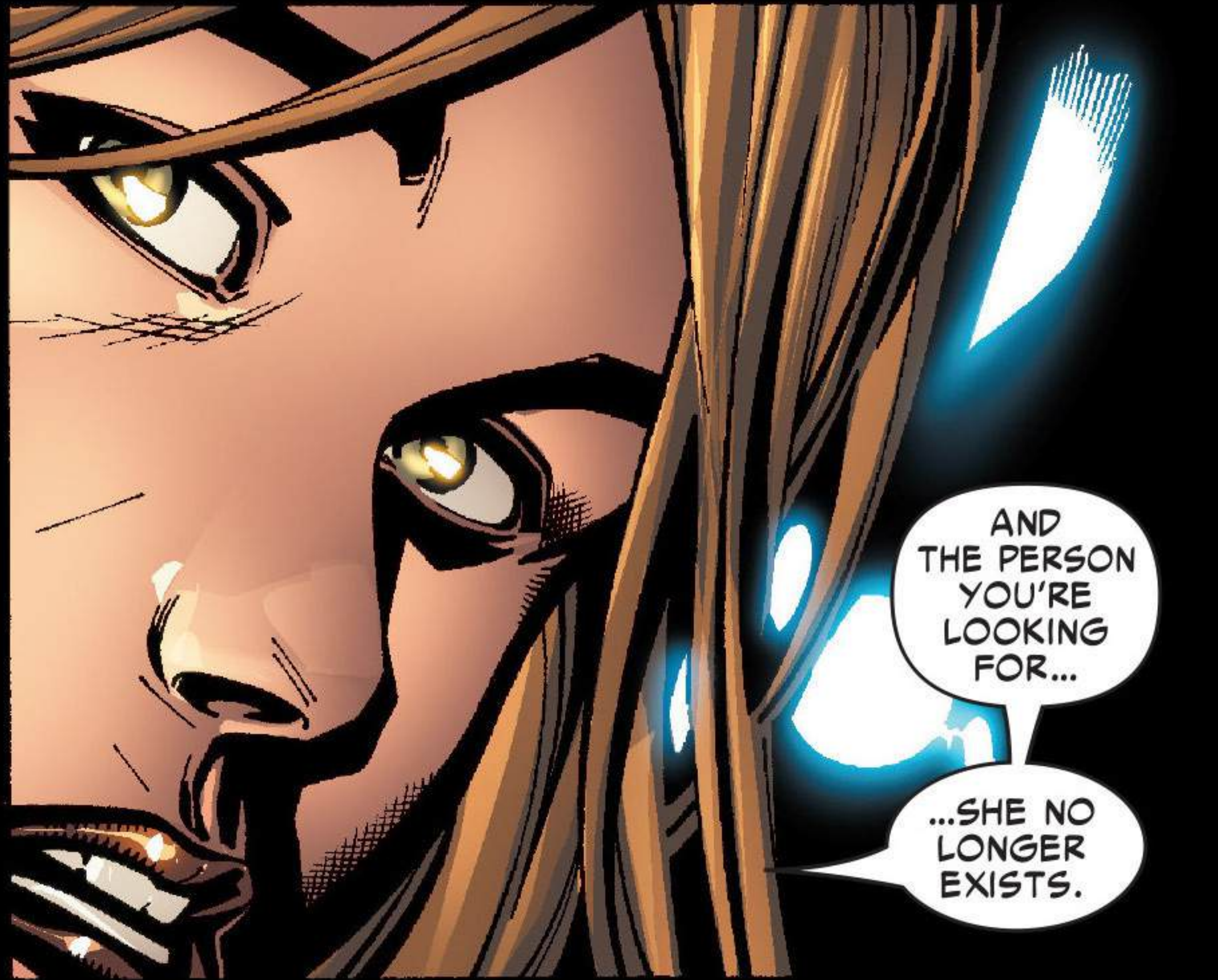
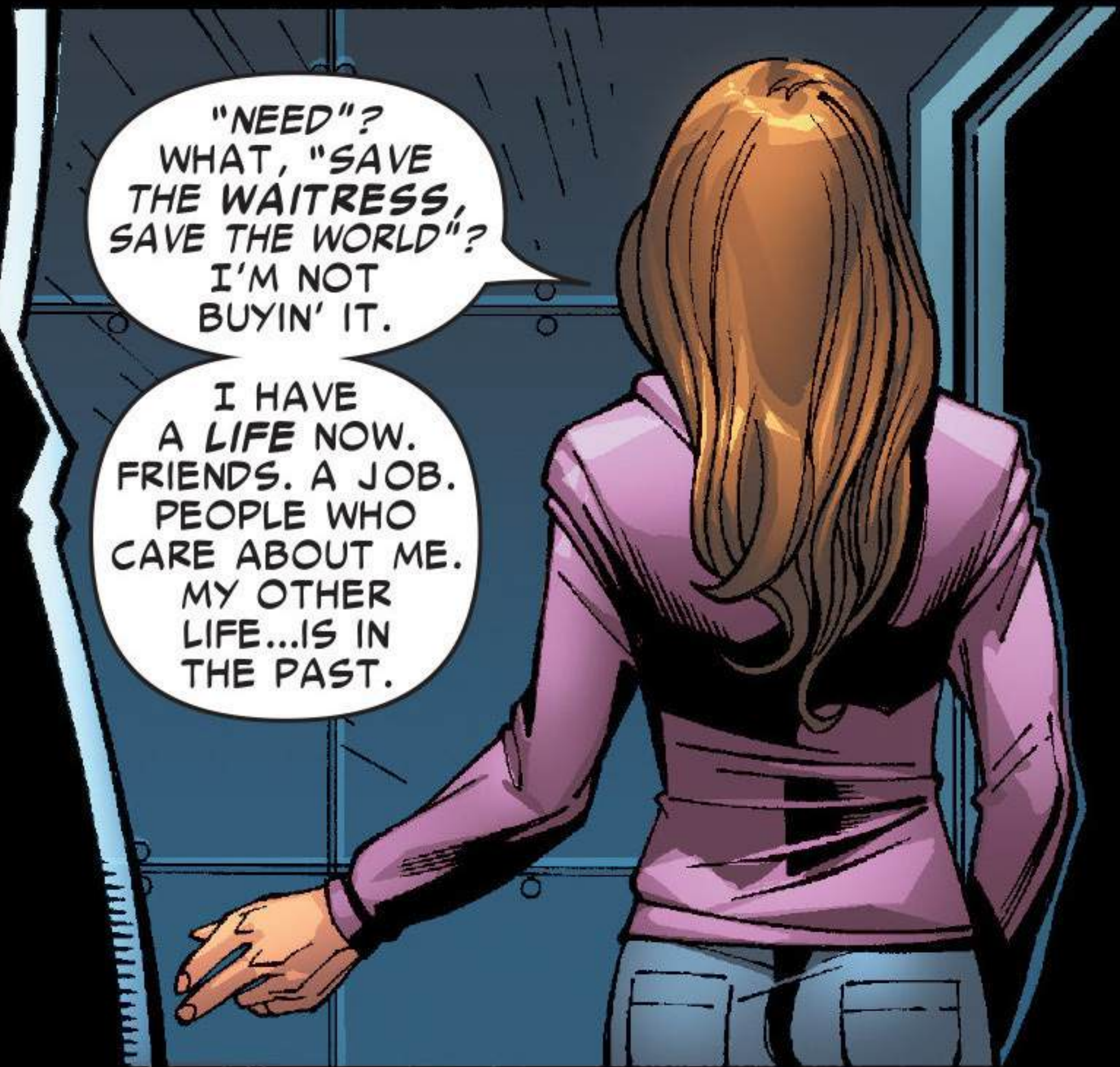
WE SEE
IT AS NEW
WARRIORS...

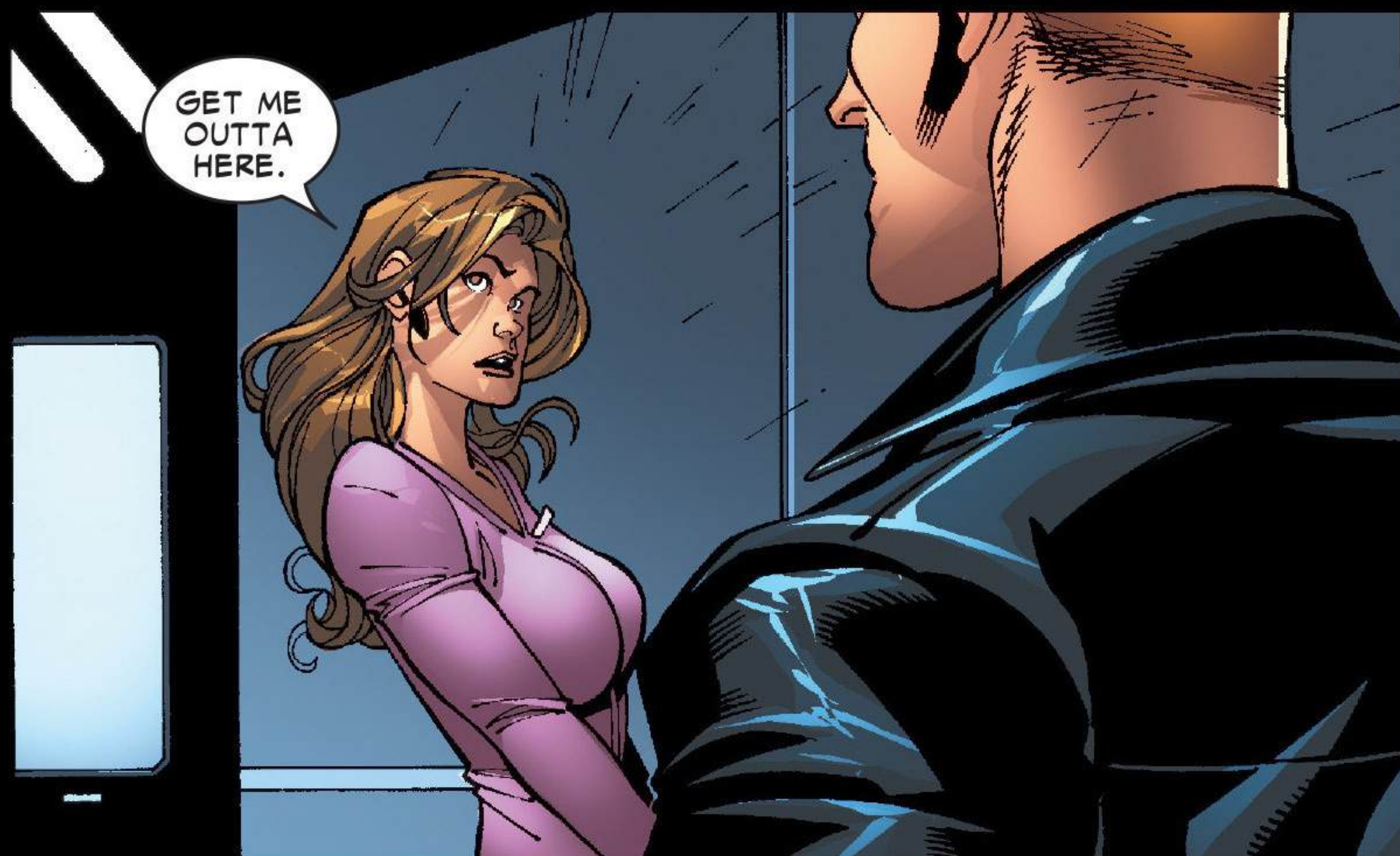
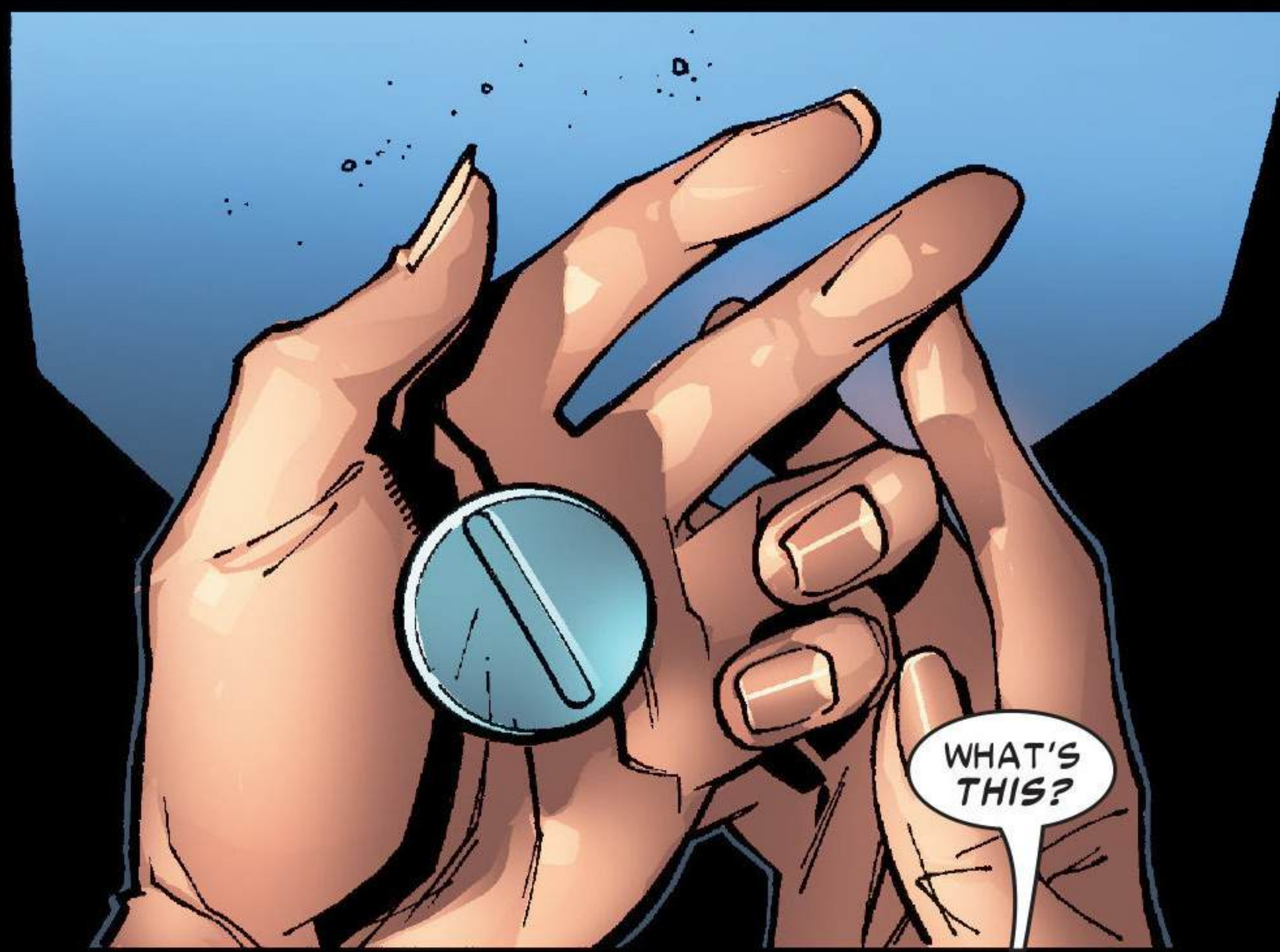
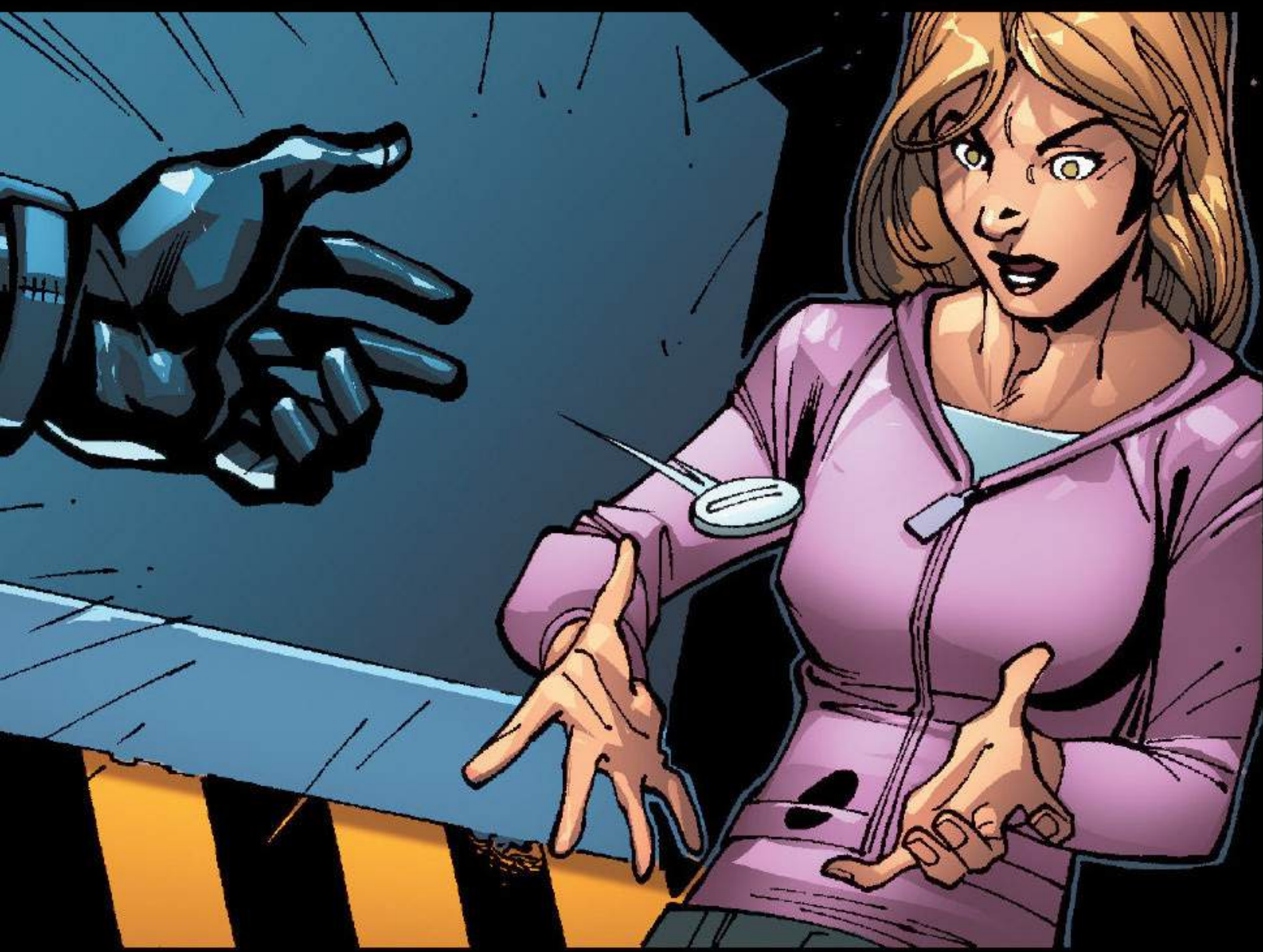


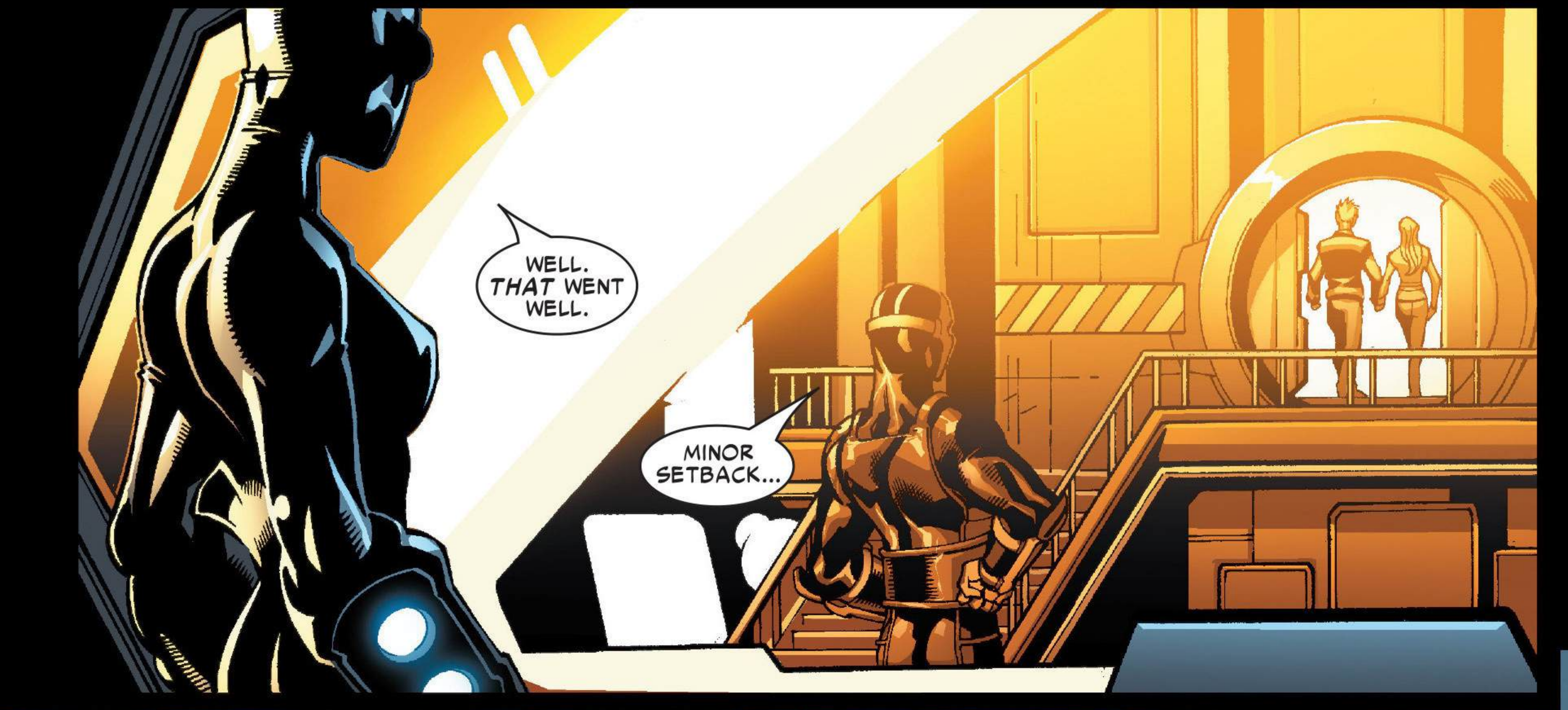
THE THREAT
OF A BLEAK
FUTURE, ONE
WITH NO HOPE
IN SIGHT.

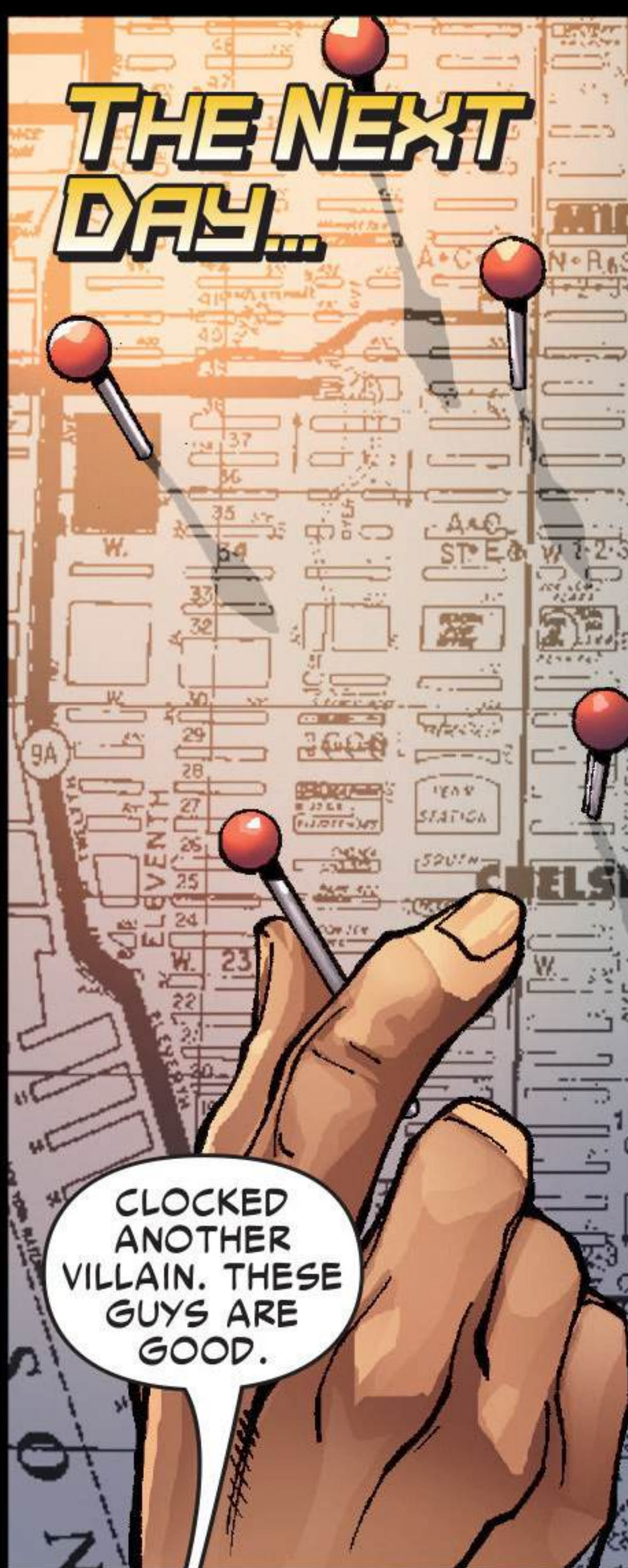


WE'RE
HERE TO
CHANGE
THAT.

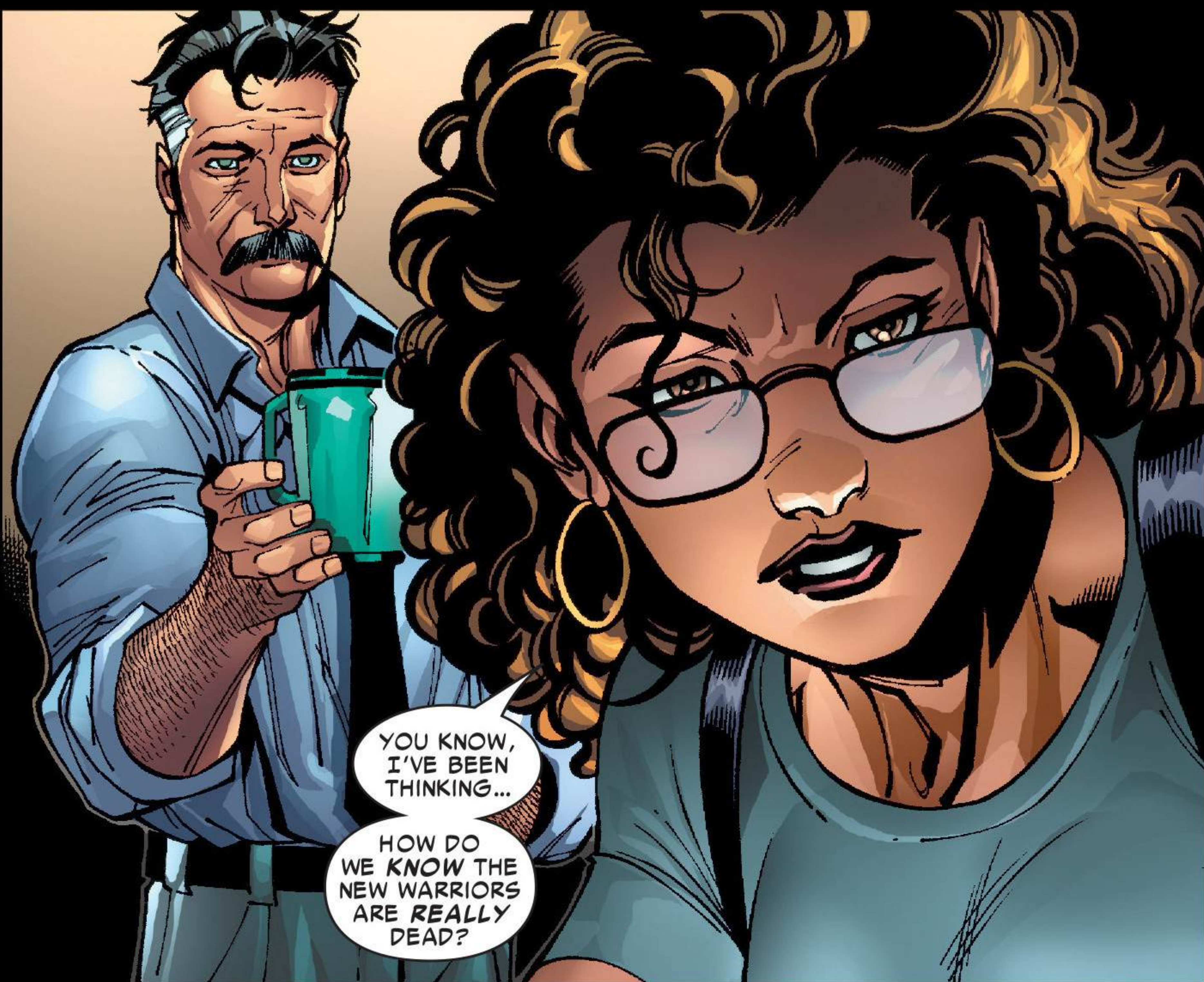








CLOCKED ANOTHER VILLAIN. THESE GUYS ARE GOOD.



YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING...

HOW DO WE KNOW THE NEW WARRIORS ARE **REALLY** DEAD?



YOU MEAN THE OLD TEAM?

THEY WERE AT **GROUND ZERO**. THEY'RE DEAD.

ARE THEY?



COME ON, BEV...

I'M **SERIOUS**, HARRY.

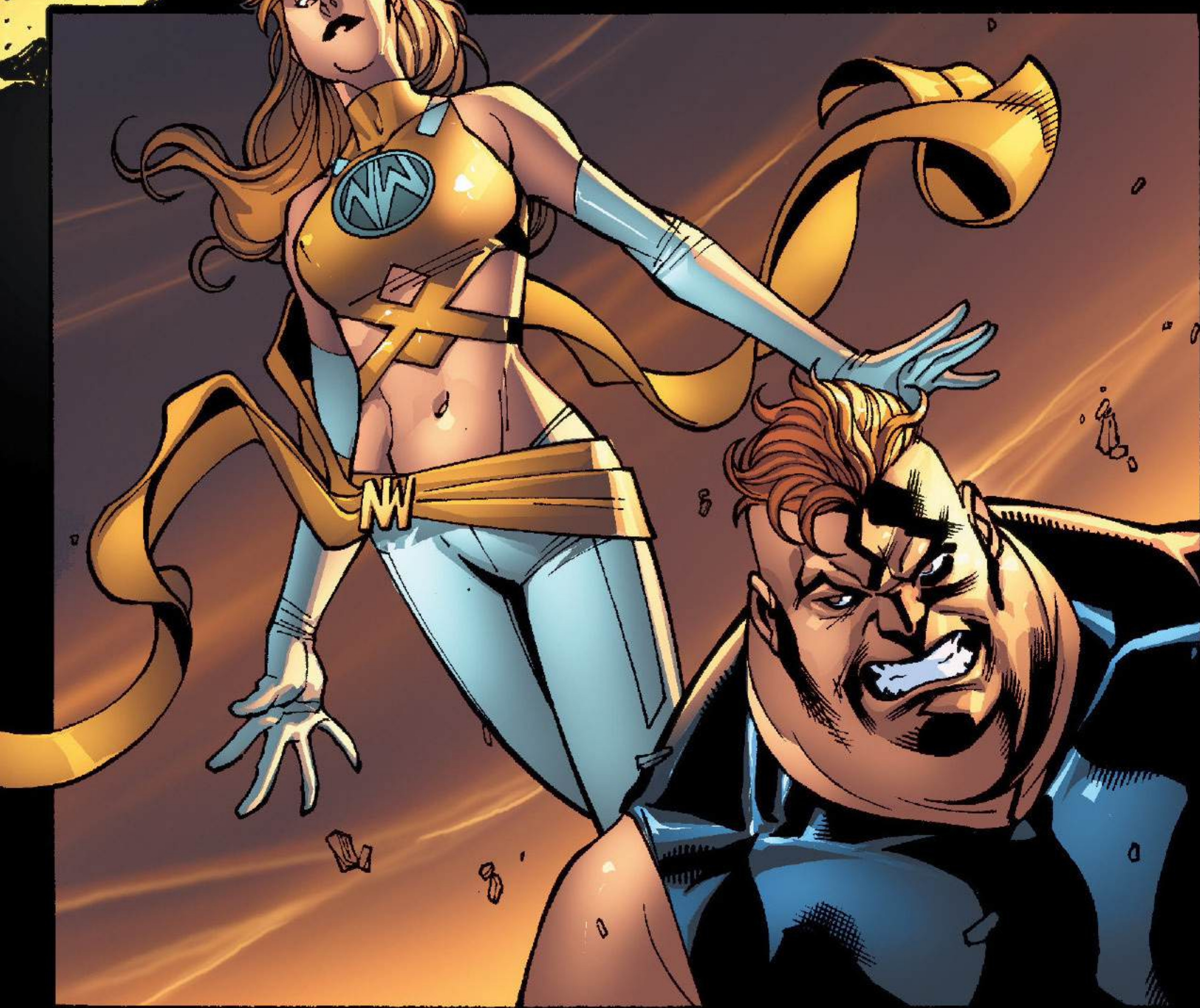
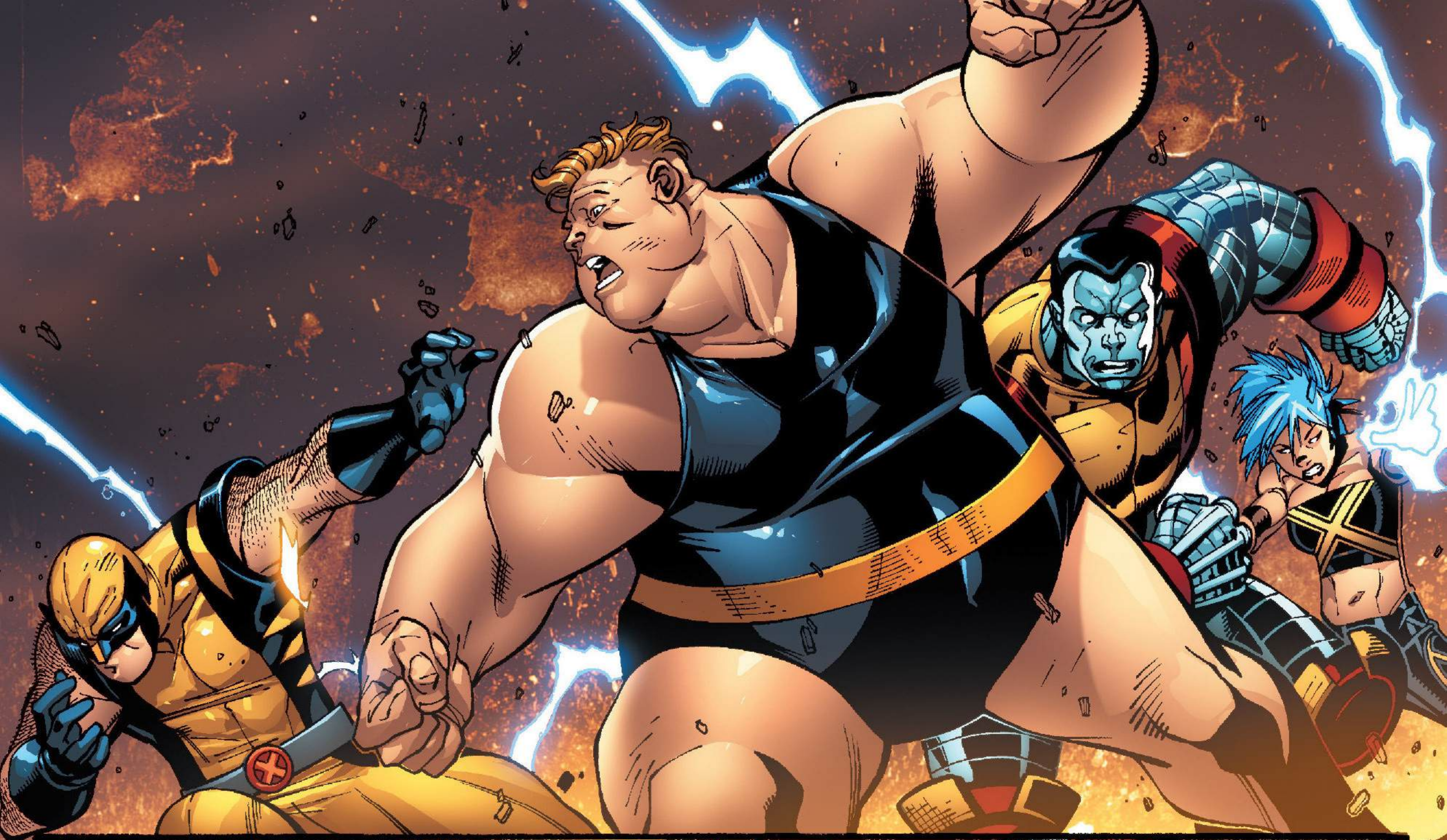
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE HEARD THAT ONE OF THESE CAPES OR SUPER-VILLAINS IS DEAD, AND A YEAR LATER THEY POP UP, PRETTY AS YOU PLEASE, ALIVE AND KICKING?

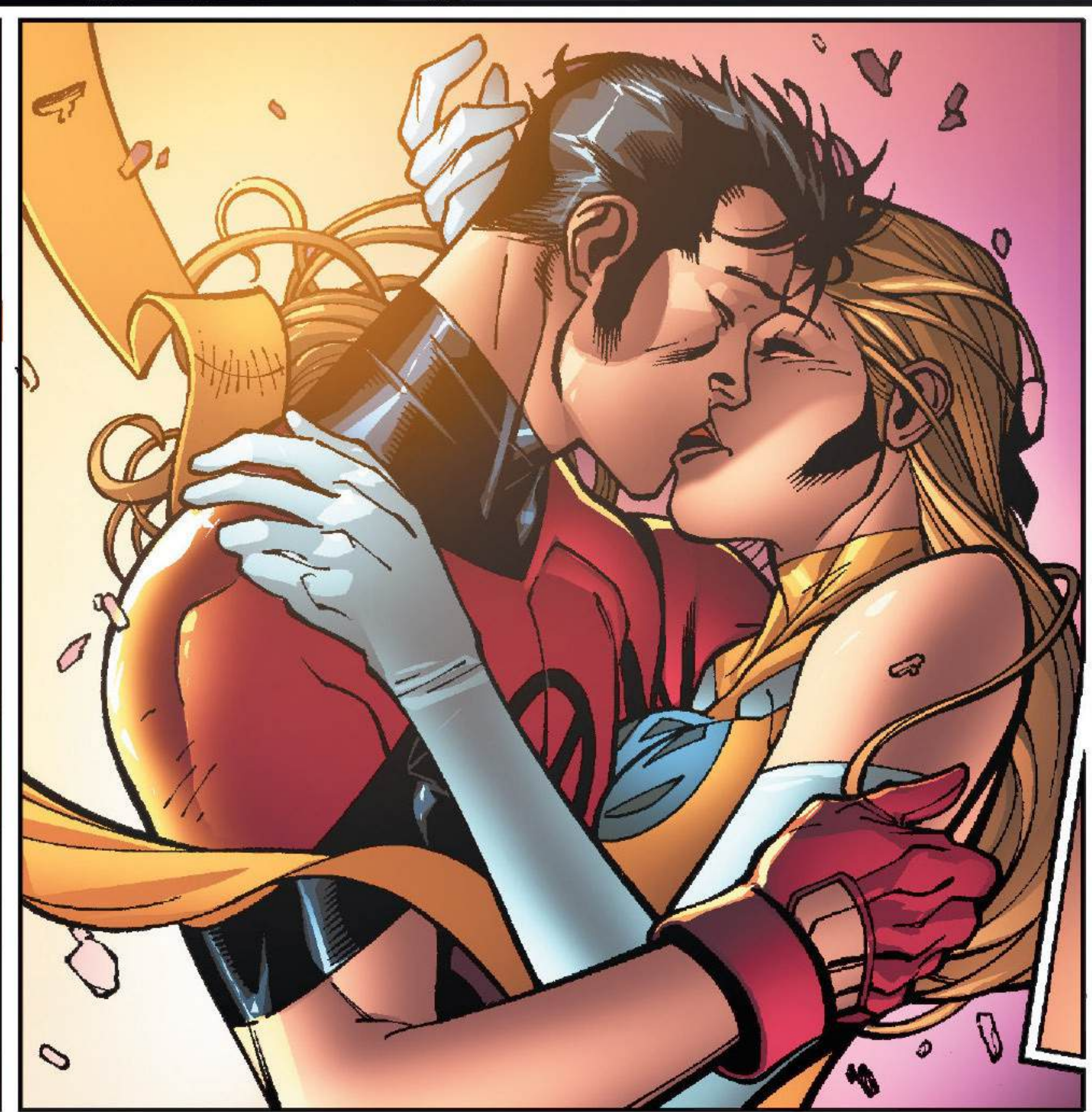
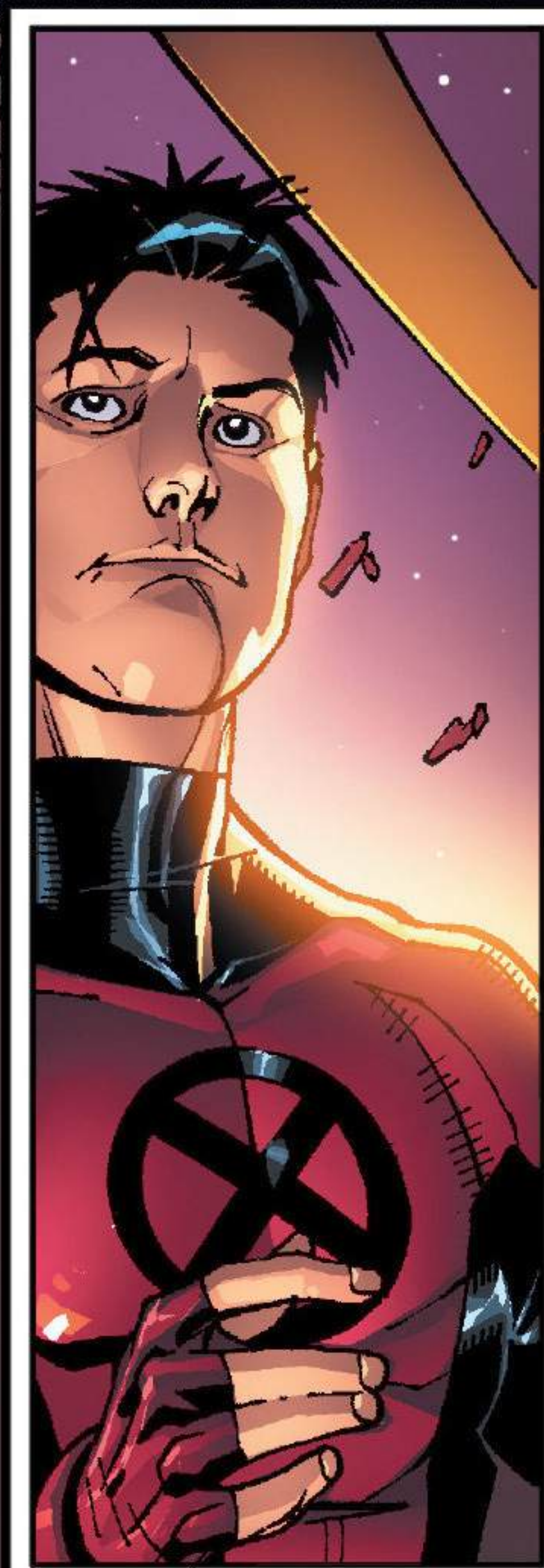
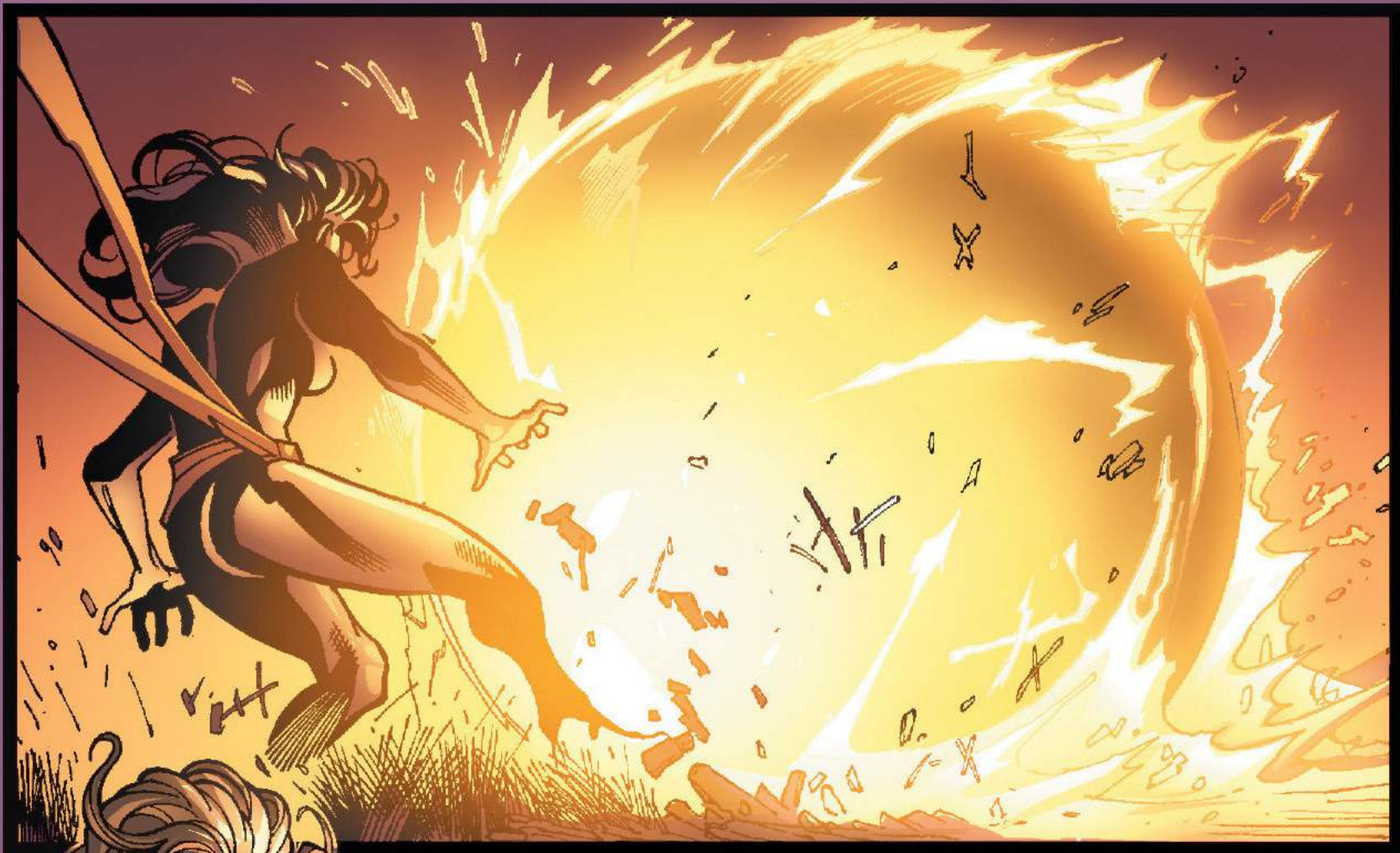
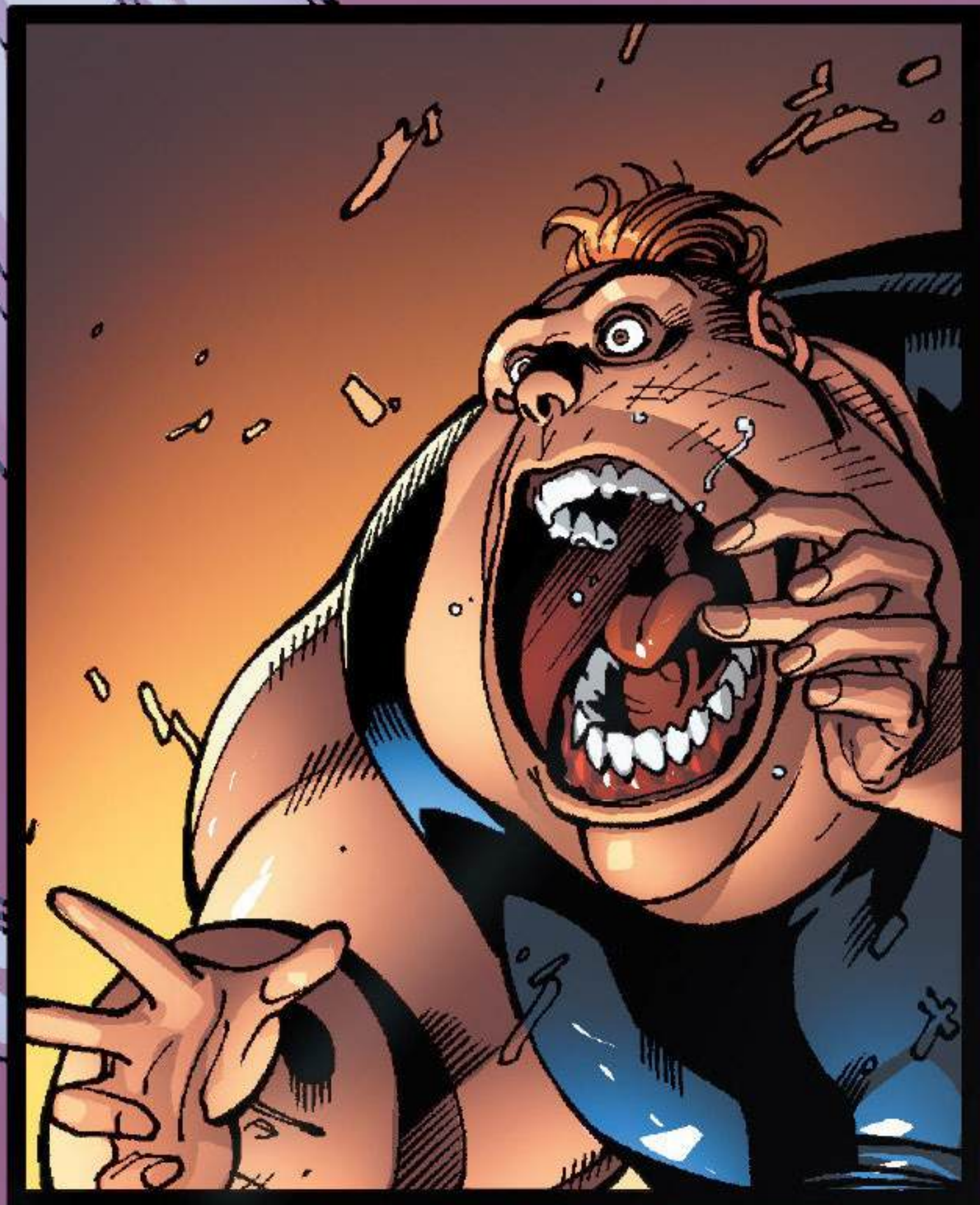


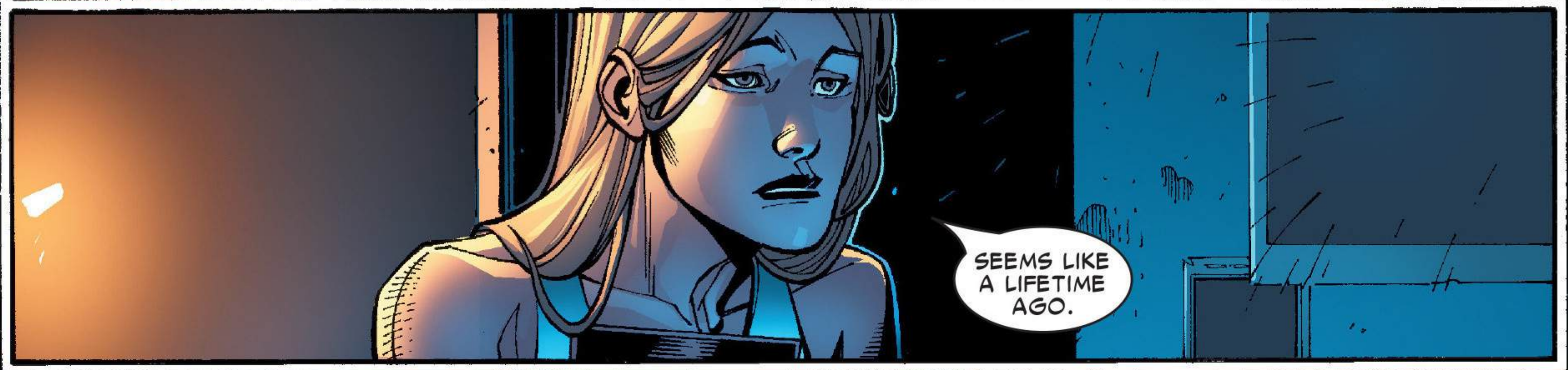
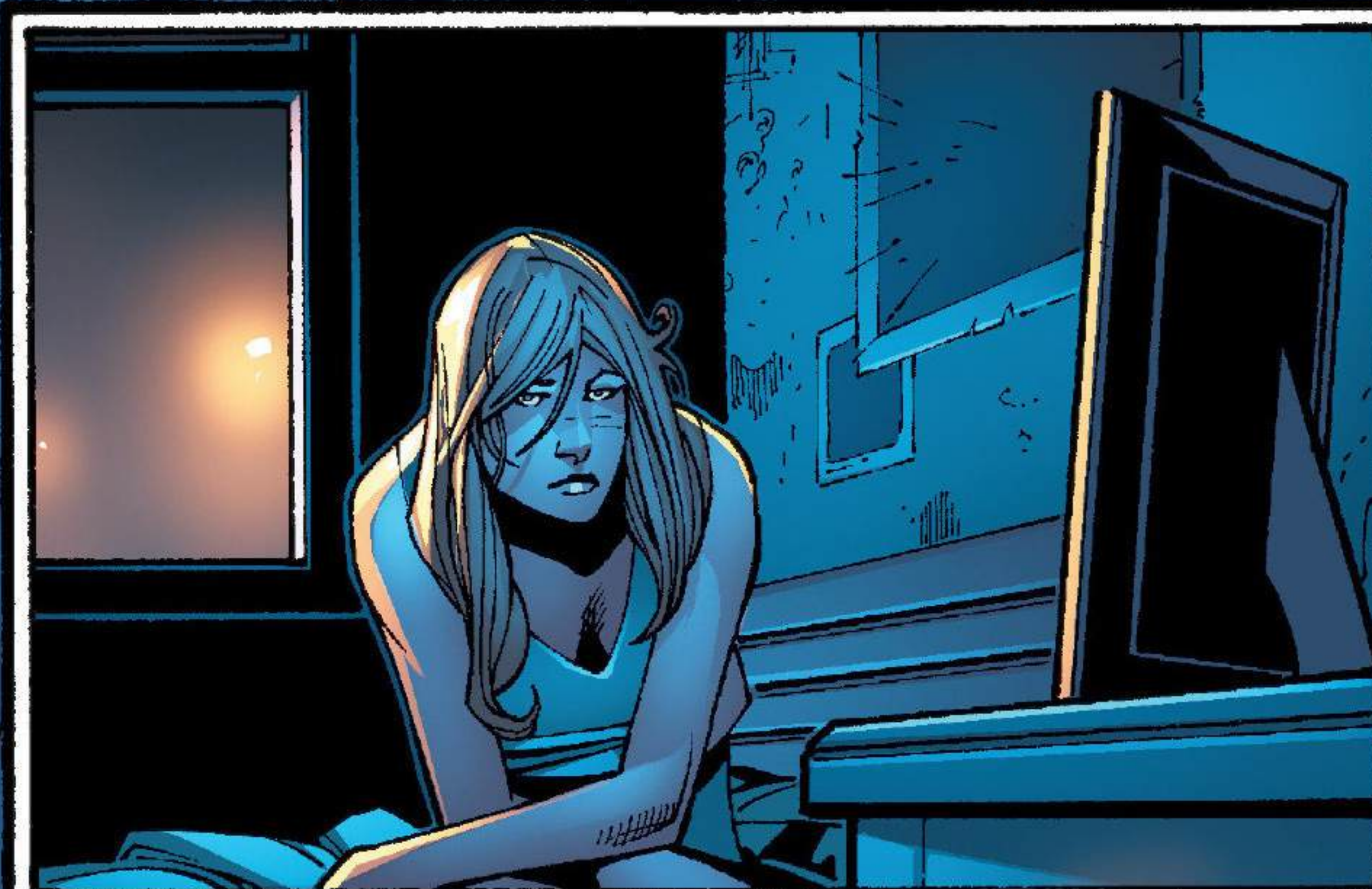
POINT TAKEN.

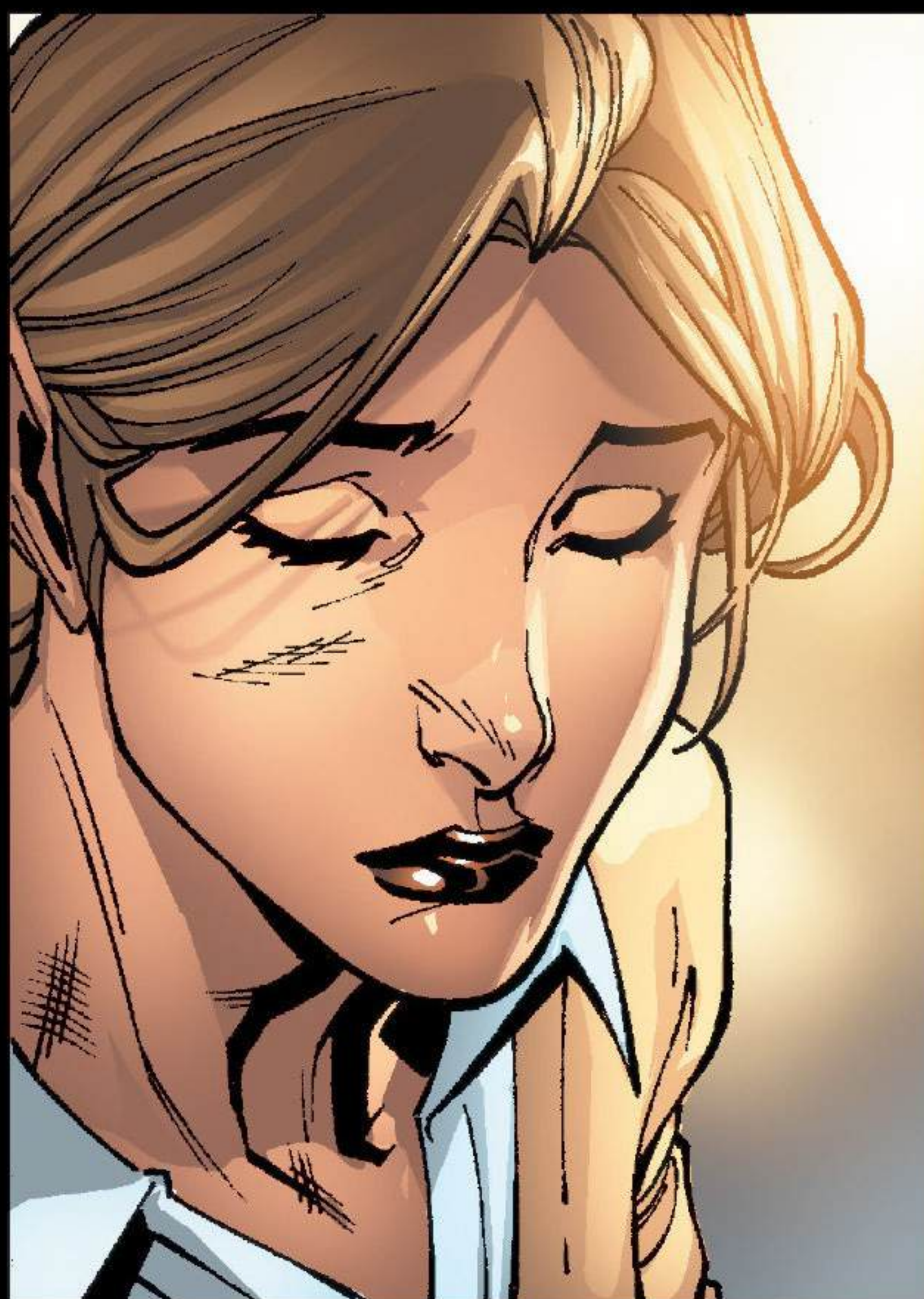
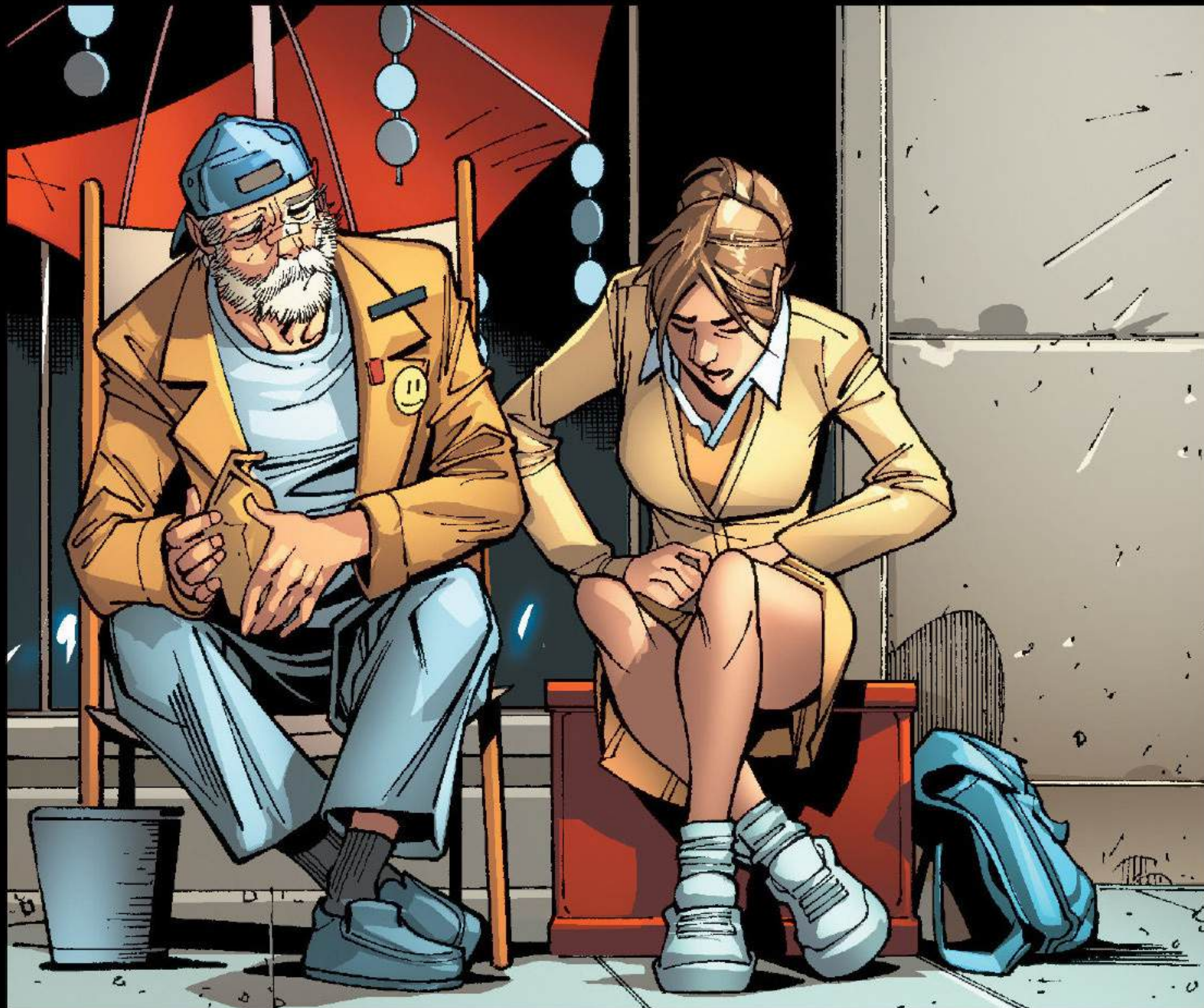
SO LET'S ASSUME THEY **SURVIVED**--OR THAT **SOME** OF THEM SURVIVED. WHY WOULD THEY COME OUT NOW? AND WHY USE THE NAME **NEW WARRIORS**? YOU'D THINK THEY'D KNOW IT WOULD DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION.

MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT.











SURE DO. MY DADDY USE'TA CALL IT "THE DEVIL'S WHISPER." LIKE THE SIRENS OF OLD THAT BECKON A MAN TO HIS GRAVE.

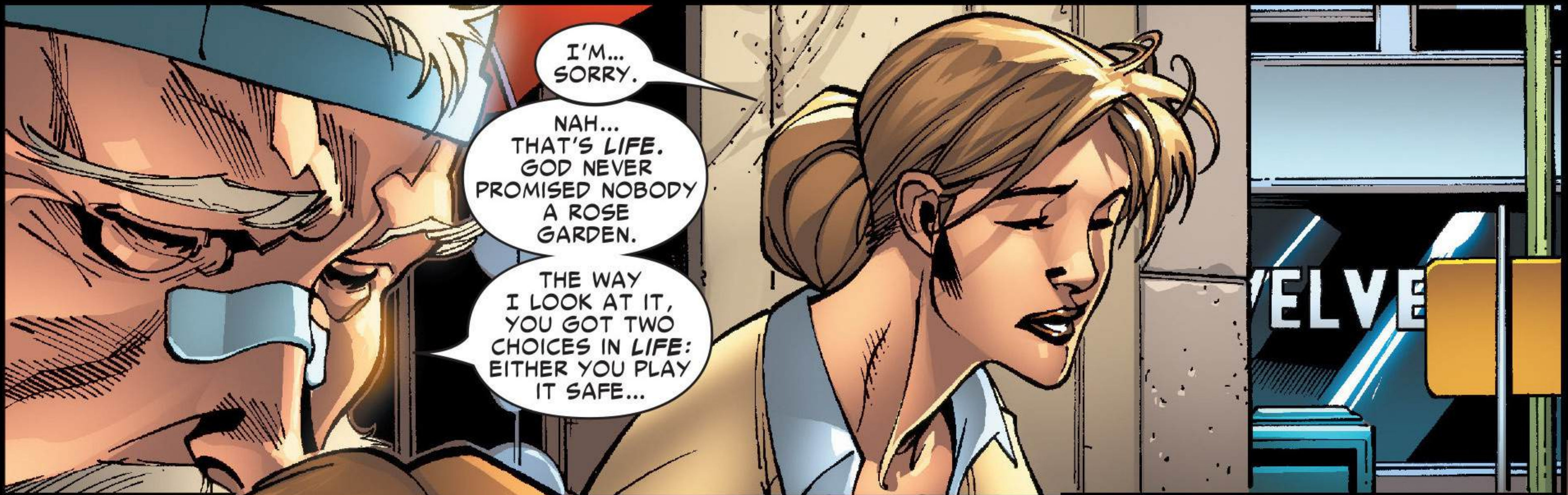


LISTEN LONG ENOUGH... AND YOU'LL DO WHATEVER IT SAYS.



IT'S WHY I'M ON THE STREETS, GIRL...

...NEVER TOOK MY OLD MAN'S ADVICE.



I'M... SORRY.

NAH... THAT'S LIFE. GOD NEVER PROMISED NOBODY A ROSE GARDEN.

THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, YOU GOT TWO CHOICES IN LIFE: EITHER YOU PLAY IT SAFE...



...OR YOU CAN RISK IT ALL AND GO AFTER WHAT YOU REALLY WANT...

MEANWHILE...

YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS?

THEY'RE
KIDS PLAYING
AN ADULT GAME.
THEY WANT TO ACT
LIKE ADULTS,
SO BE IT.



WHOEVER AND
WHEREVER YOU ARE AND
WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE...
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.
YOU'RE GOOD. AND WE NEED
MORE KIDS LIKE YOU TO
BECOME ROLE MODELS FOR
THE YOUTH OF NOT ONLY
AMERICA...BUT THE WORLD.



THEREFORE,
I AM HEREBY
OFFERING YOU COMPLETE
AMNESTY AND A
CHANCE TO JOIN THE
INITIATIVE.

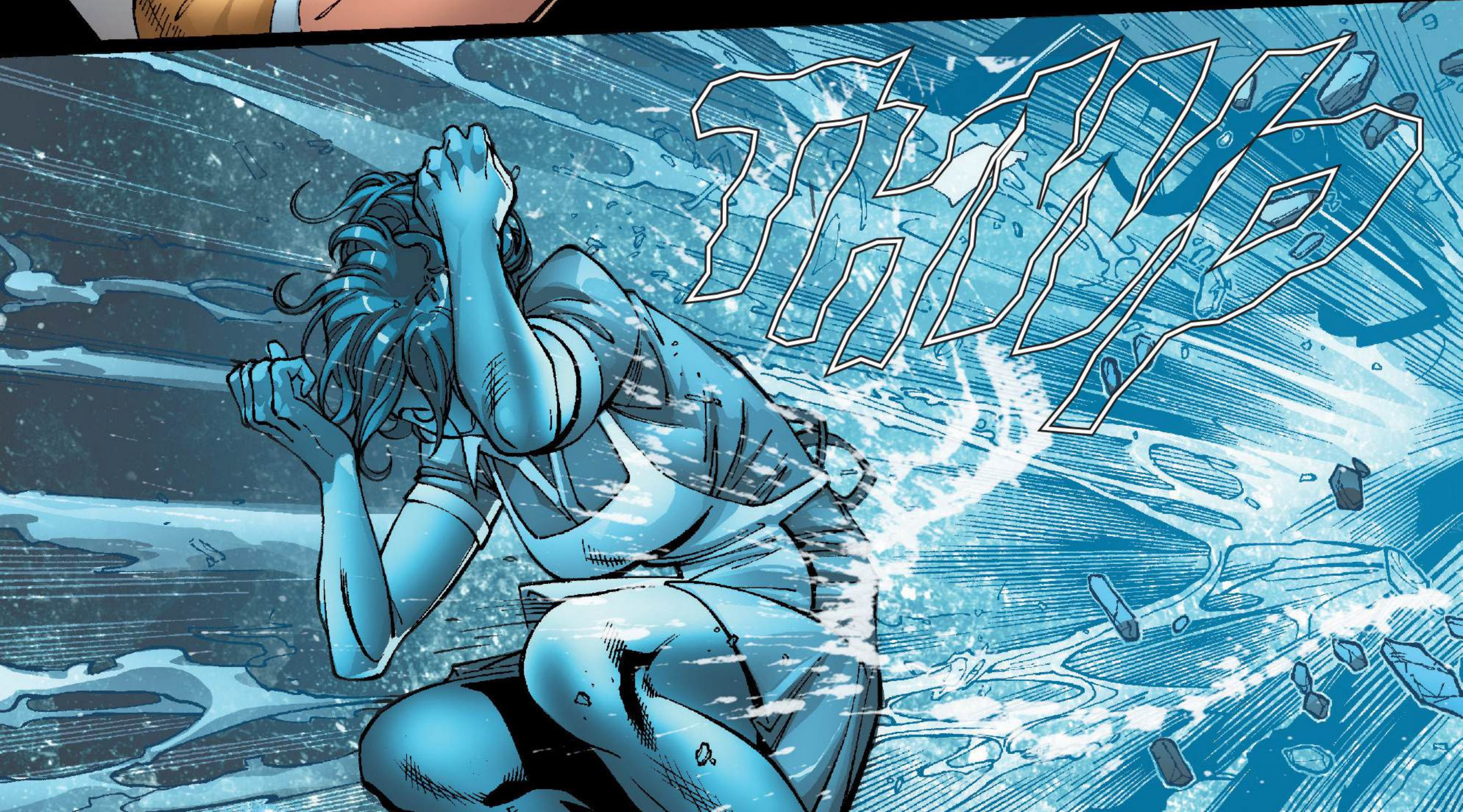
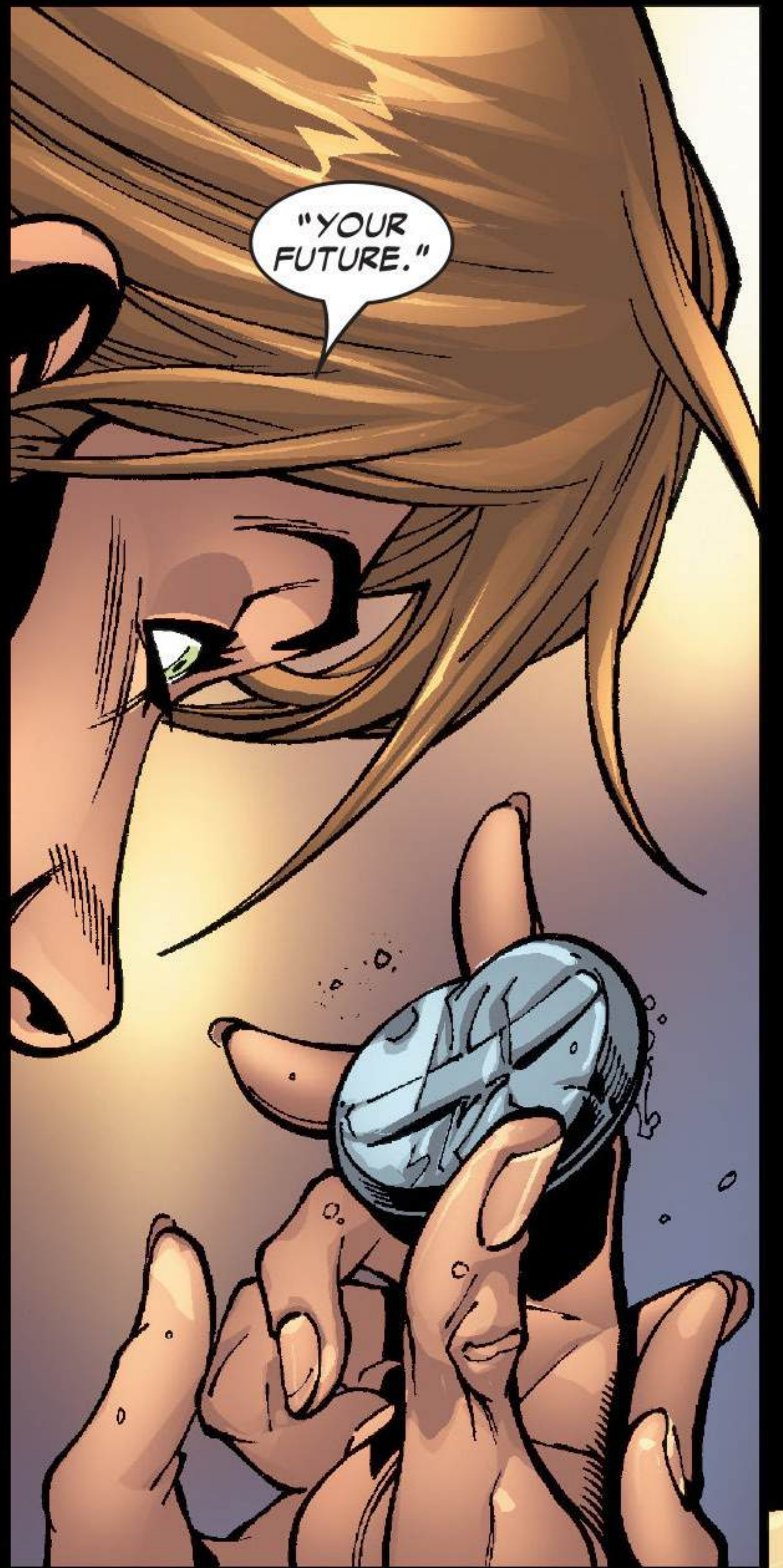
WHAT?

SPLASH

HEY! I
JUST BOUGHT
THIS SHIRT.











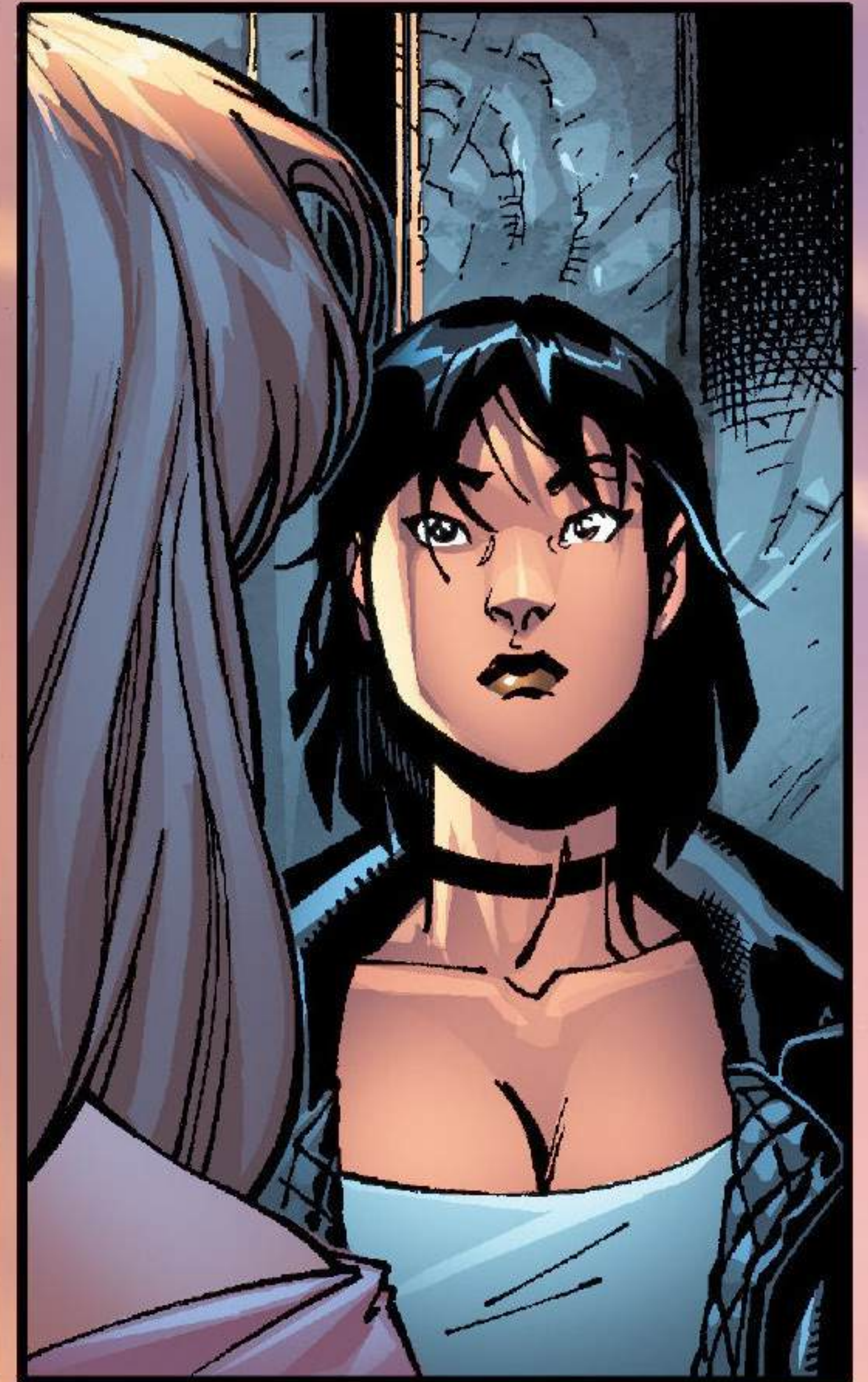
...THE ONLY THING I HATE IS COMING HOME SMELLING LIKE ONIONS. YOU'D THINK I WAS DATING BOB BIG BOY.



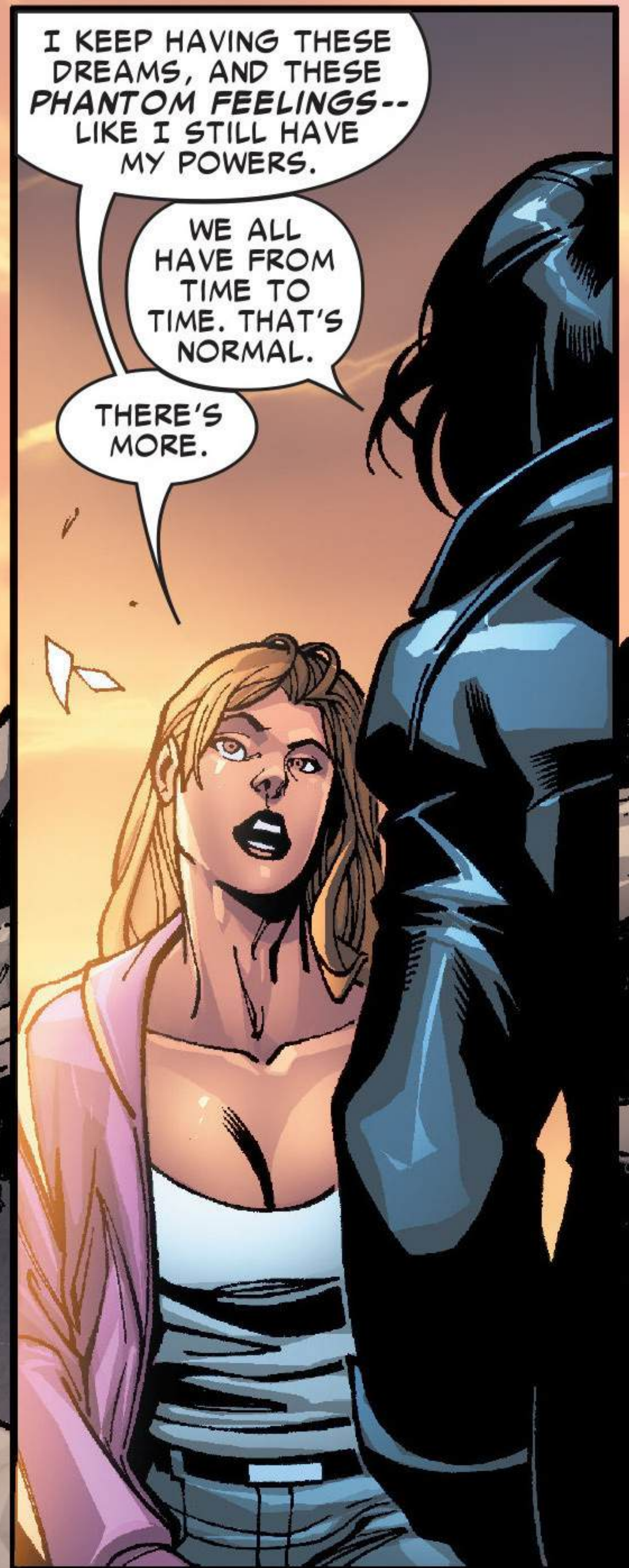
I'M IMPRESSED, SOFIA. NOT ALL OF US EX-MUTANTS HAVE LANDED ON OUR FEET QUITE SO WELL.



WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE, RIGHT?



OH, WHO'M I KIDDING?



I KEEP HAVING THESE DREAMS, AND THESE PHANTOM FEELINGS-- LIKE I STILL HAVE MY POWERS.

WE ALL HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME. THAT'S NORMAL.

THERE'S MORE.

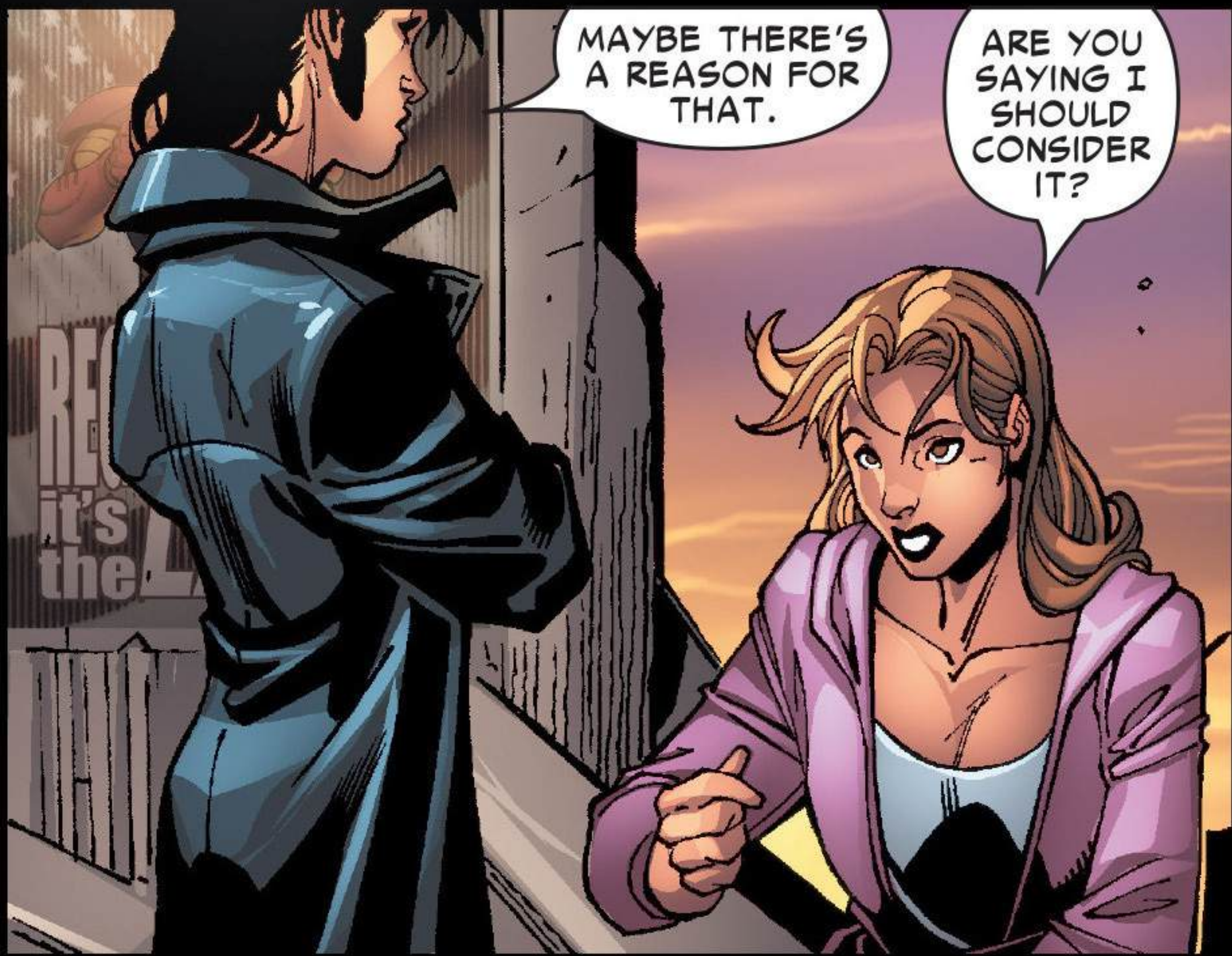


THOSE MILITANT YOUNG AVENGER WANNABES? YOU KNOW THAT NEW GROUP, THE NEW WARRIORS?

THEY CONTACTED ME YESTERDAY.



THEY WANT ME TO JOIN. AND NOW I CAN'T GET THEM OUT OF MY MIND.

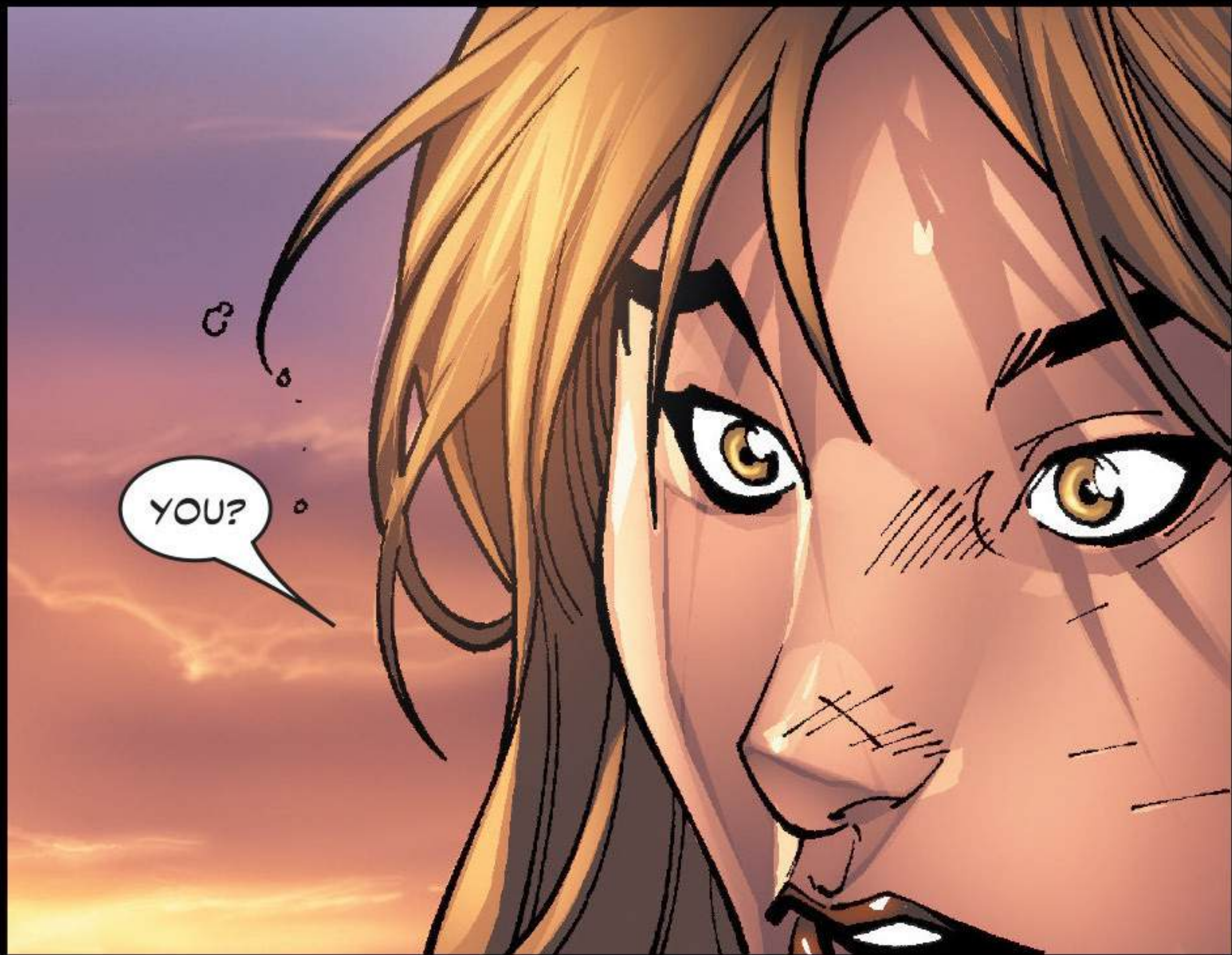


MAYBE THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT.

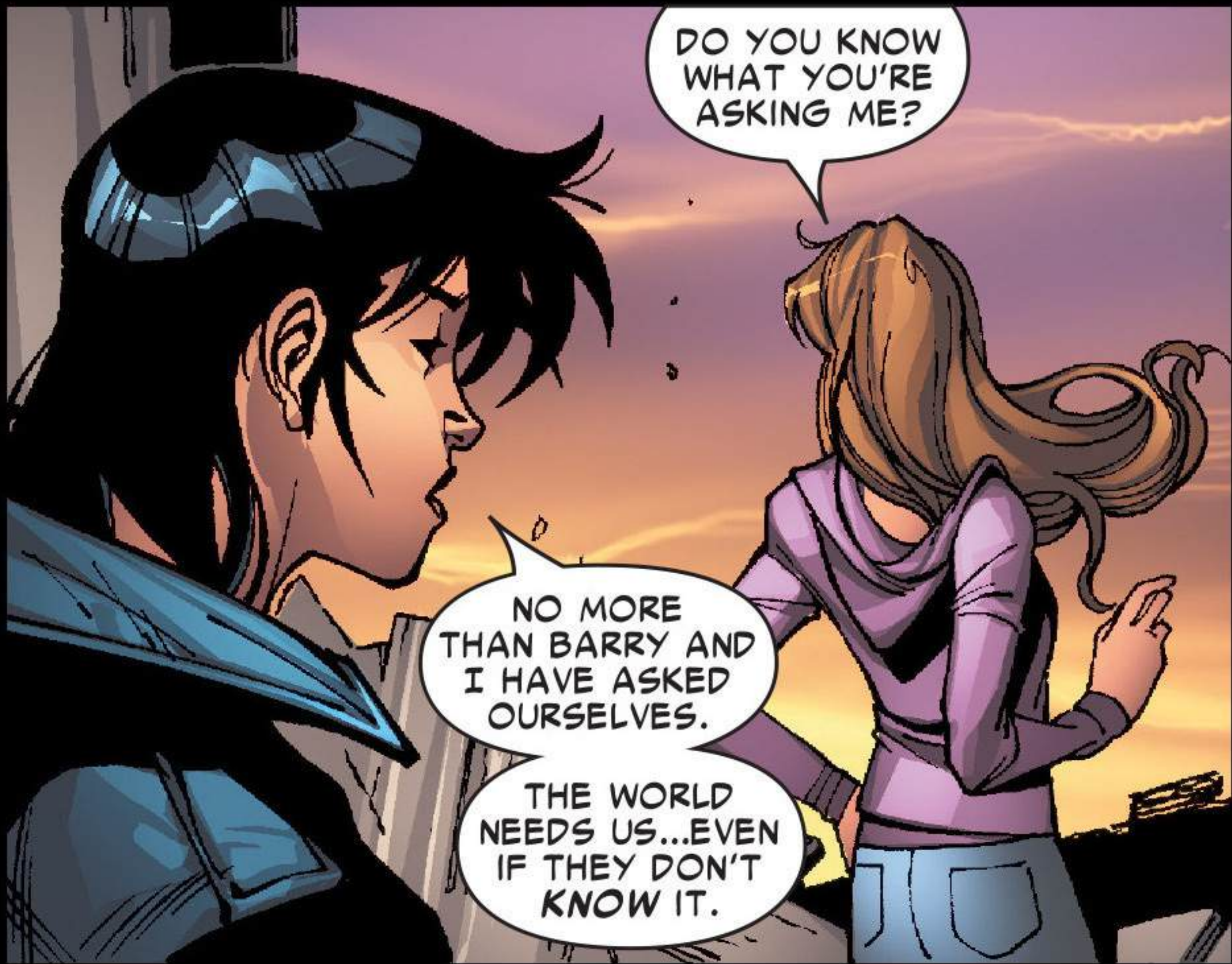
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD CONSIDER IT?



I DID.



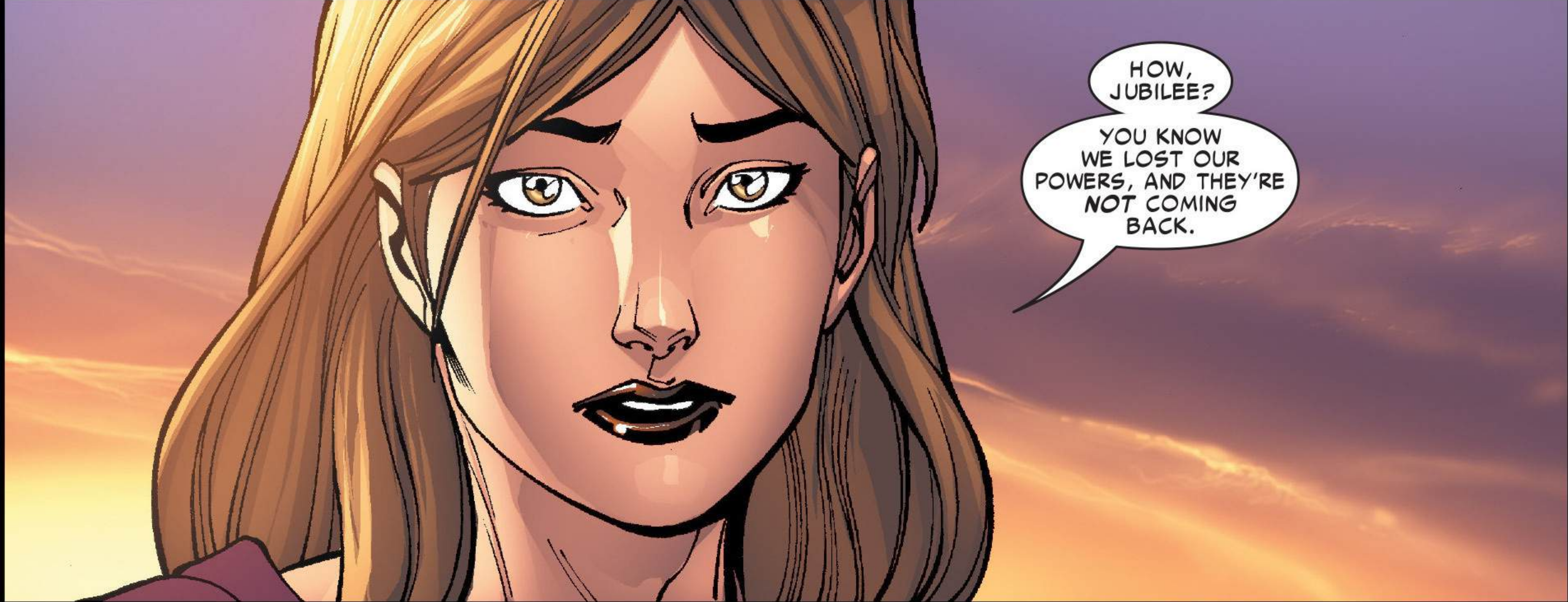
YOU?



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME?

NO MORE THAN BARRY AND I HAVE ASKED OURSELVES.

THE WORLD NEEDS US...EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW IT.



HOW, JUBILEE?

YOU KNOW WE LOST OUR POWERS, AND THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK.



MARVEL

3

GREVIOUX
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA

THE INITIATIVE™

NEW

THE
UNUSUAL
HEROES



PREVIOUSLY...

SOMEONE IS GIFT-WRAPPING SUPER-VILLAINS FOR THE POLICE. SOMEONE IS DEFACING SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION POSTERS. SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE NYPD COSTUMED DIVISION STUMPED. AND THE ONLY CLUE TO THEIR IDENTITIES? A SINGLE PHRASE, SPRAY-PAINTED ON THE FLOOR OF AN ALLEY: THE NEW WARRIORS WERE HERE.

IN THE WAKE OF M-DAY, NEW X-MAN SOFIA MANTEGA, A.K.A. WIND DANCER, WAS STRIPPED OF HER MUTANT POWERS. HOPING TO CARVE OUT A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF, SOFIA LEFT THE X-MEN BEHIND, AND FOUND HERSELF A JOB AS A WAITRESS IN NEW YORK CITY. HOWEVER, AS SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION BECOMES LAW, SHE FEELS HER FORMER LIFE BECKONING TO HER.

AS THE NEW WARRIORS' POPULARITY SURGES, THE TEAM'S ENIGMATIC LEADER, NIGHT THRASHER, EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO SOFIA, ASKING HER TO JOIN THEIR CAUSE. THOUGH SHE REFUSES HIS OFFER, SOFIA CAN'T HELP BUT IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO RETURN TO HER LIFE AS A SUPER HERO. AND SHE'S FURTHER PERSUADED BY FELLOW FORMER X-MAN JUBILEE—WHO ACCEPTED NIGHT THRASHER'S OFFER AND NOW DEMONSTRATES NEW SUPERHUMAN POWERS...



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JOE QUESADA
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DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

IT'S COMING...
BUT THEY REFUSE
TO BELIEVE.

IN SEEING,
THEY DO
NOT SEE.

IN HEARING,
THEY DO NOT
HEAR.

THE WINDS OF
REVOLUTION.

NO
QUARTER
ASKED.

NO
QUARTER
GIVEN.



WE WILL
BE READY.

THIS IS ALL
THAT'S LEFT
OF 'EM.



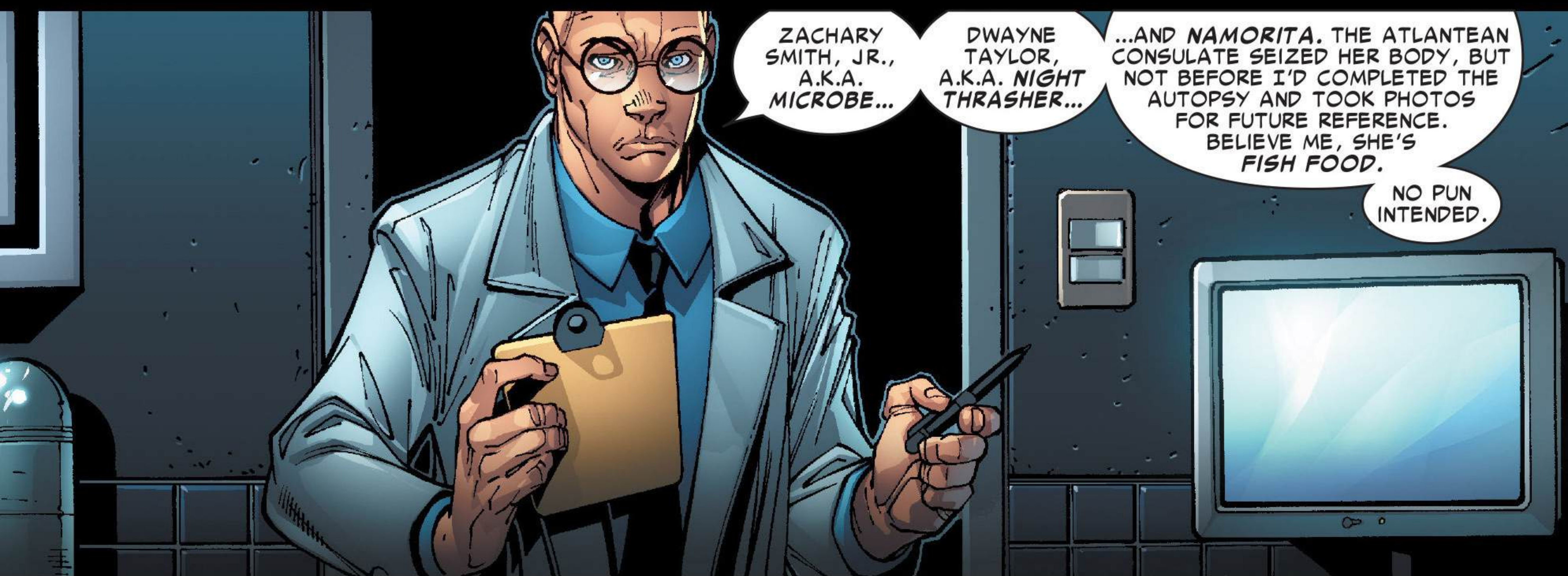
I GUESS
THAT ANSWERS
THAT
QUESTION.



AND
THEY WERE
POSITIVELY
I.D.'ED?

WHAT? YOU
THINK THIS
IS MY FIRST
BARBECUE?

WE WERE
ABLE TO MATCH
THEM BASED ON PREVIOUS
MEDICAL RECORDS. THEY'RE
THE NEW WARRIORS
ALL RIGHT...
OR WERE.



ZACHARY
SMITH, JR.,
A.K.A.
MICROBE...

DWAYNE
TAYLOR,
A.K.A. NIGHT
THRASHER...

...AND NAMORITA. THE ATLANTEAN
CONSULATE SEIZED HER BODY, BUT
NOT BEFORE I'D COMPLETED THE
AUTOPSY AND TOOK PHOTOS
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
BELIEVE ME, SHE'S
FISH FOOD.

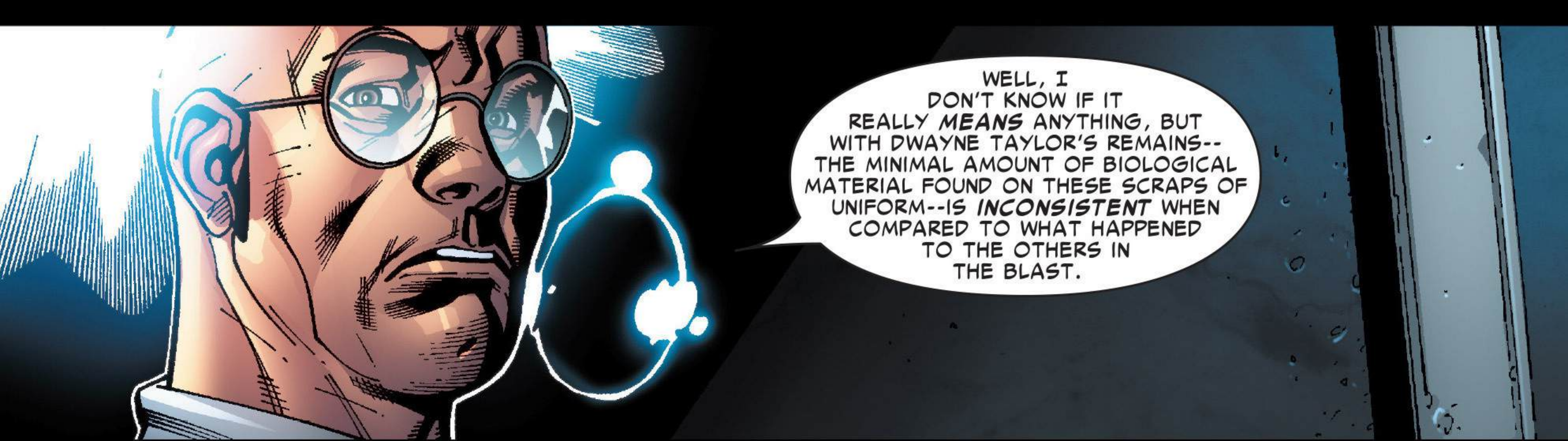
NO PUN
INTENDED.



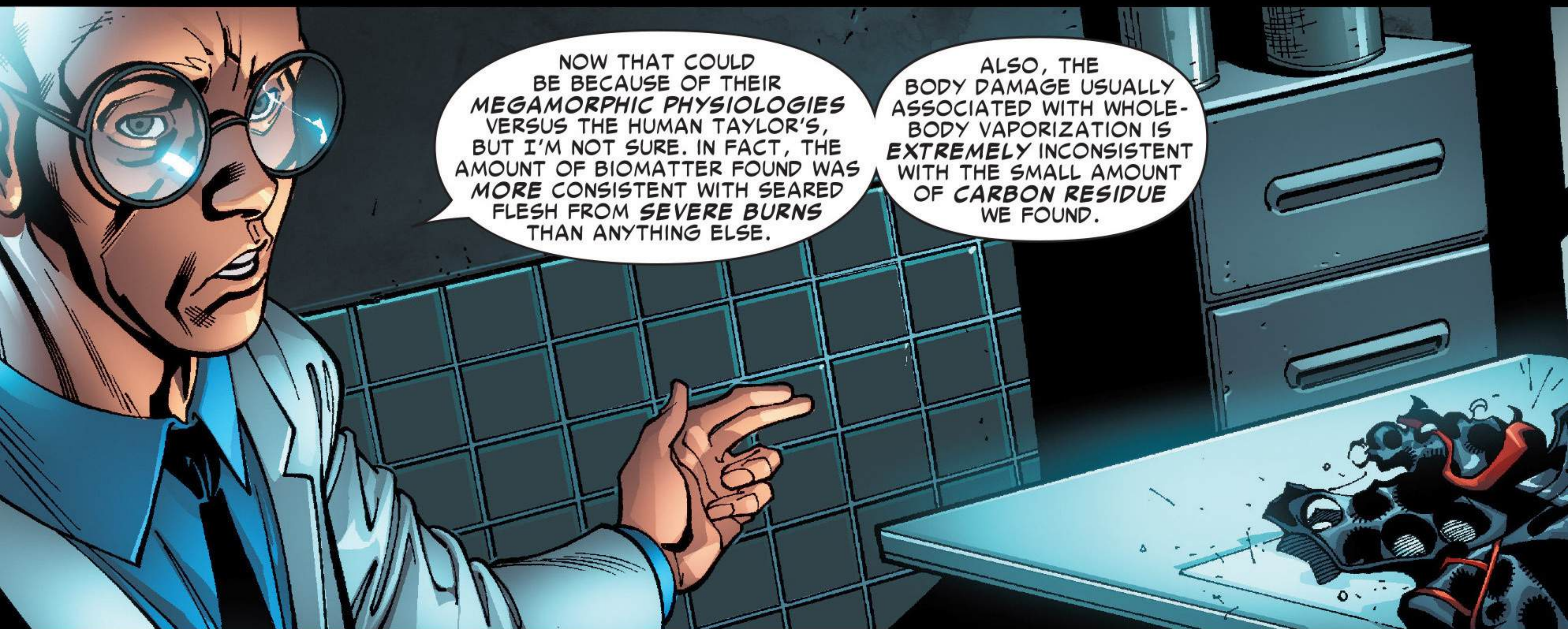
WHAT
ABOUT NIGHT
THRASHER'S
BODY?

VAPORIZED.
I THINK.

YOU
"THINK"?
WHAT DOES
THAT
MEAN?



WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF IT REALLY MEANS ANYTHING, BUT WITH DWAYNE TAYLOR'S REMAINS-- THE MINIMAL AMOUNT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL FOUND ON THESE SCRAPS OF UNIFORM--IS **INCONSISTENT** WHEN COMPARED TO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS IN THE BLAST.



NOW THAT COULD BE BECAUSE OF THEIR **MEGAMORPHIC PHYSIOLOGIES** VERSUS THE HUMAN TAYLOR'S, BUT I'M NOT SURE. IN FACT, THE AMOUNT OF BIOMATTER FOUND WAS **MORE CONSISTENT** WITH SEARED FLESH FROM **SEVERE BURNS** THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

ALSO, THE BODY DAMAGE USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH WHOLE-BODY VAPORIZATION IS **EXTREMELY INCONSISTENT** WITH THE SMALL AMOUNT OF **CARBON RESIDUE** WE FOUND.



NOW, WHETHER THAT'S BASED ON TAYLOR'S PROXIMITY TO THE BLAST OR THE EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF HIS **VIBRANIUM MESH** COSTUME IS ANYONE'S GUESS.

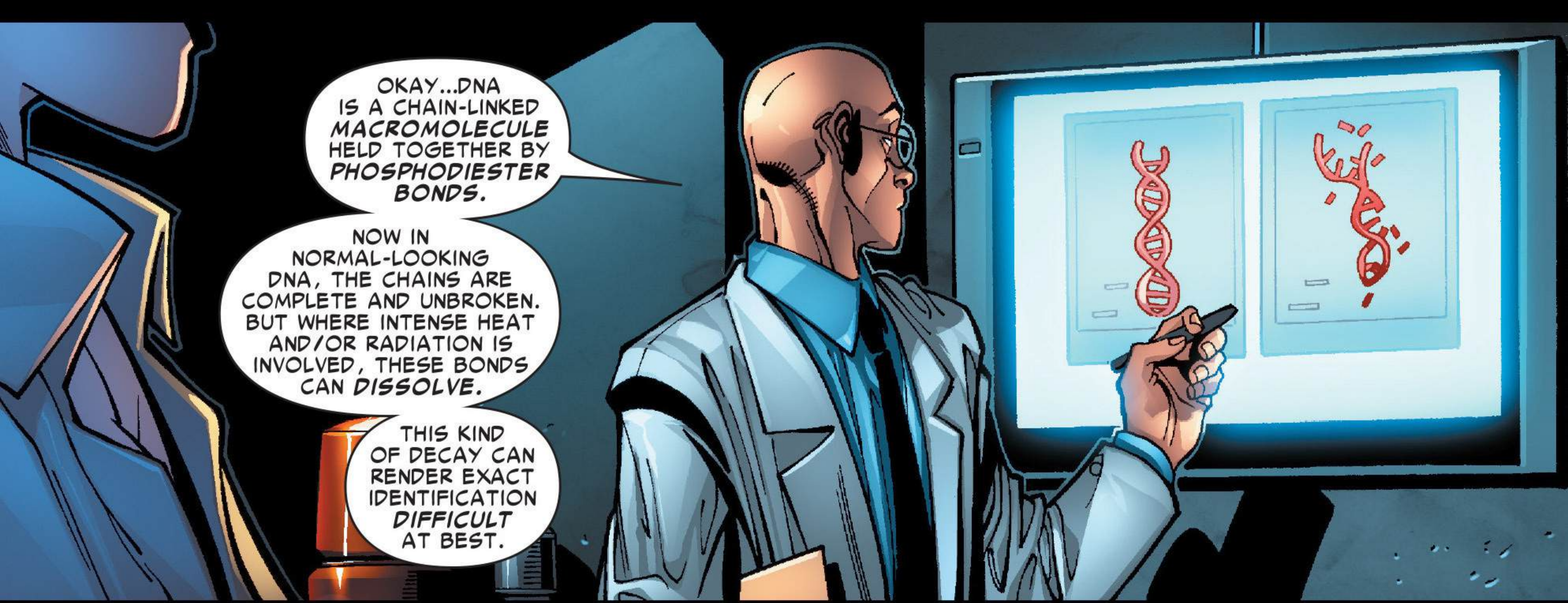
WHAT WAS HE DOING WITH **VIBRANIUM**...?

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING.



WHAT'S REALLY PUZZLING IS THAT HIS DNA IS...WELL...IT'S **INCOMPLETE**.

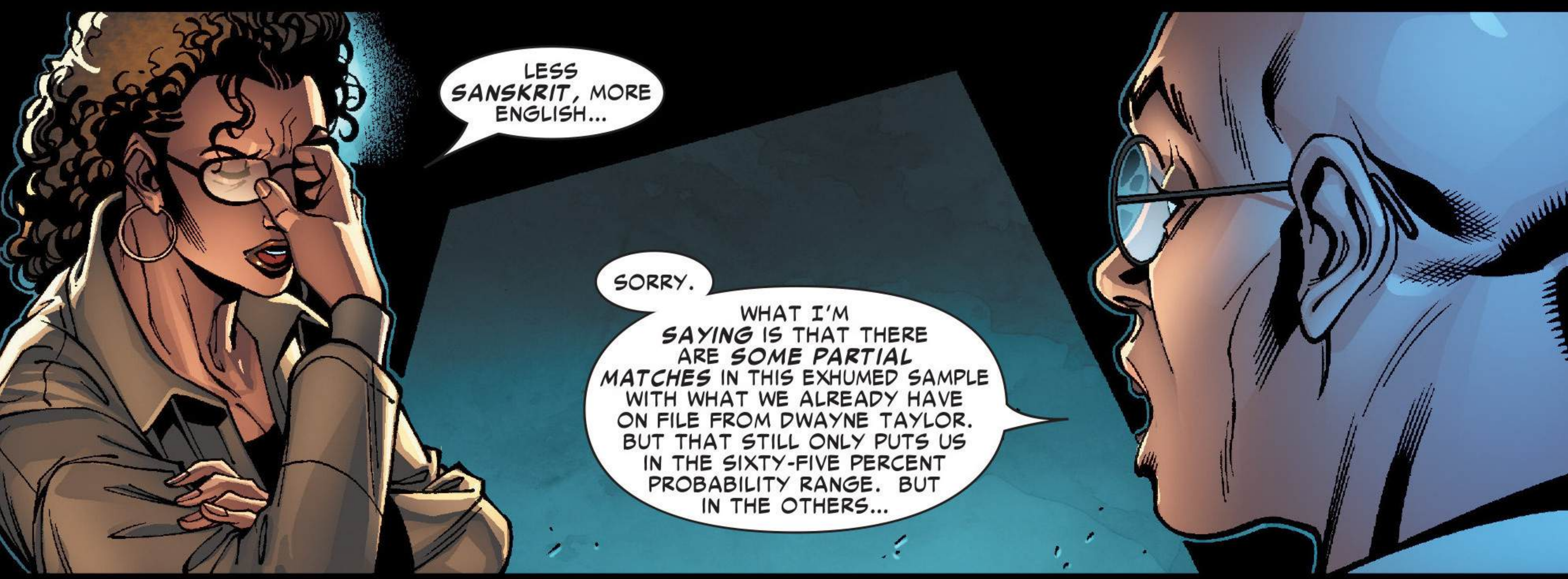
COME AGAIN?



OKAY...DNA IS A CHAIN-LINKED MACROMOLECULE HELD TOGETHER BY PHOSPHODIESTER BONDS.

NOW IN NORMAL-LOOKING DNA, THE CHAINS ARE COMPLETE AND UNBROKEN. BUT WHERE INTENSE HEAT AND/OR RADIATION IS INVOLVED, THESE BONDS CAN DISSOLVE.

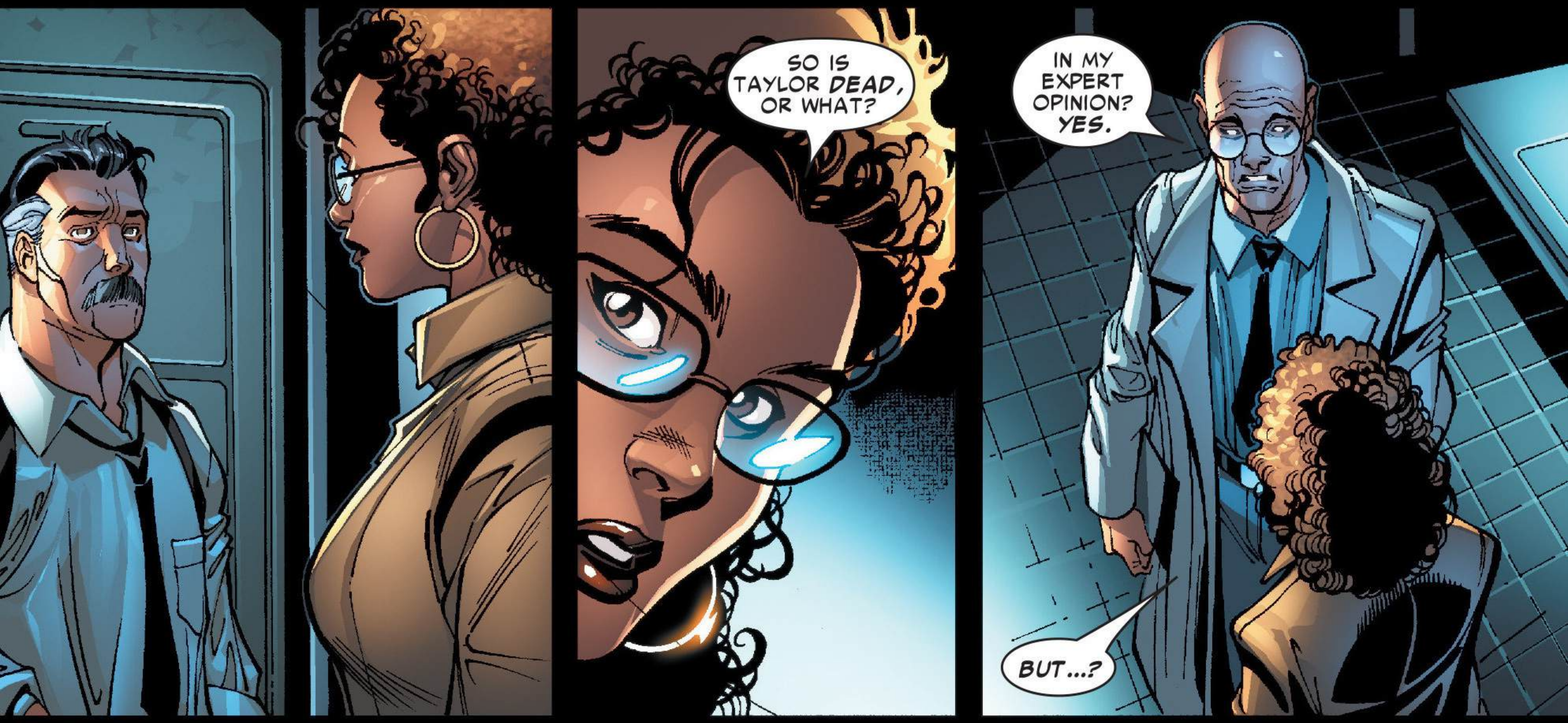
THIS KIND OF DECAY CAN RENDER EXACT IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT AT BEST.



LESS SANSKRIT, MORE ENGLISH...

SORRY.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT THERE ARE SOME PARTIAL MATCHES IN THIS EXHUMED SAMPLE WITH WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE ON FILE FROM DWAYNE TAYLOR. BUT THAT STILL ONLY PUTS US IN THE SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT PROBABILITY RANGE. BUT IN THE OTHERS...



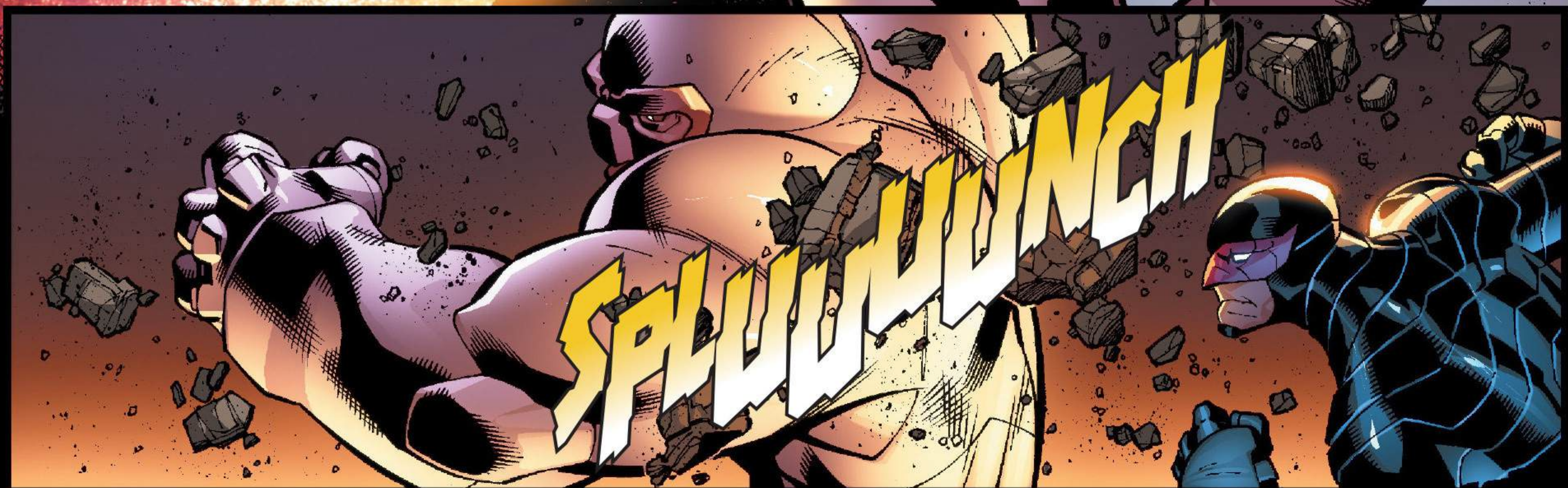
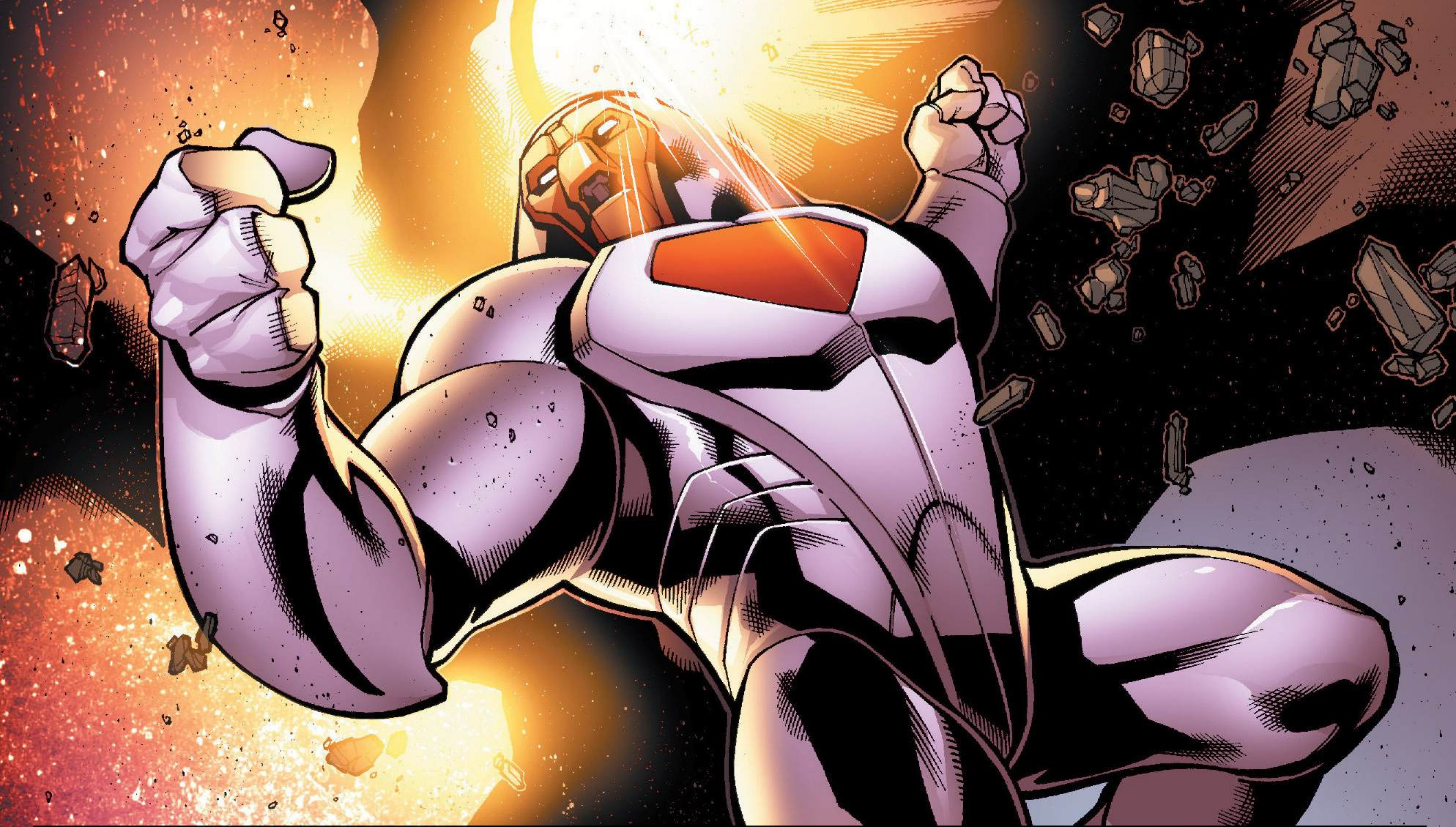
SO IS TAYLOR DEAD, OR WHAT?

IN MY EXPERT OPINION? YES.

BUT...?



BUT GIVEN THIS DUBIOUS EVIDENCE, AND WITHOUT AN ACTUAL BODY, I WOULDN'T BET THE FARM.







UNACCEPTABLE.



SKYBOLT,
HAD THOSE **TURBO**
MISSILES BEEN LIVE,
RIPCORDER COULD'VE
BEEN INJURED--
OR WORSE.



TEMPEST,
USE YOUR FIRE, ICE,
AND WIND WEAPONS
IN **TANDEM**. DON'T JUST
RELY ON ONE OVER
THE OTHER.



DECIBEL, YOU
GOTTA LEARN TO
CONTROL THE DIRECTION
OF THOSE **SONIC BLASTS**.
YOU HAVE TEAMMATES
AROUND YOU. YOU WANT
TO **SHATTER** THEIR
EARDRUMS?



C'MON,
JUBES. WE'RE
DOING THE **BEST**
WE CAN.

NOT
GOOD ENOUGH,
BLACKWING.



EVERYONE CLEAN, PREP
YOUR EQUIPMENT AND
CHILL FOR A FEW.
WE'RE GOING OUT AGAIN
TONIGHT, AND I WANT
YOU PREPARED.

WHAT
DOES SHE
THINK THIS
IS? THE
INITIATIVE?



GRACE, I NEED YOU TO JUMP ONLINE AND CONTACT THE **HEROWATCH NETWORK**. FIND OUT WHAT VILLAINS HAVE BEEN SEEN AND WHERE. I WANT THE TEAM READY TO PATROL TONIGHT.

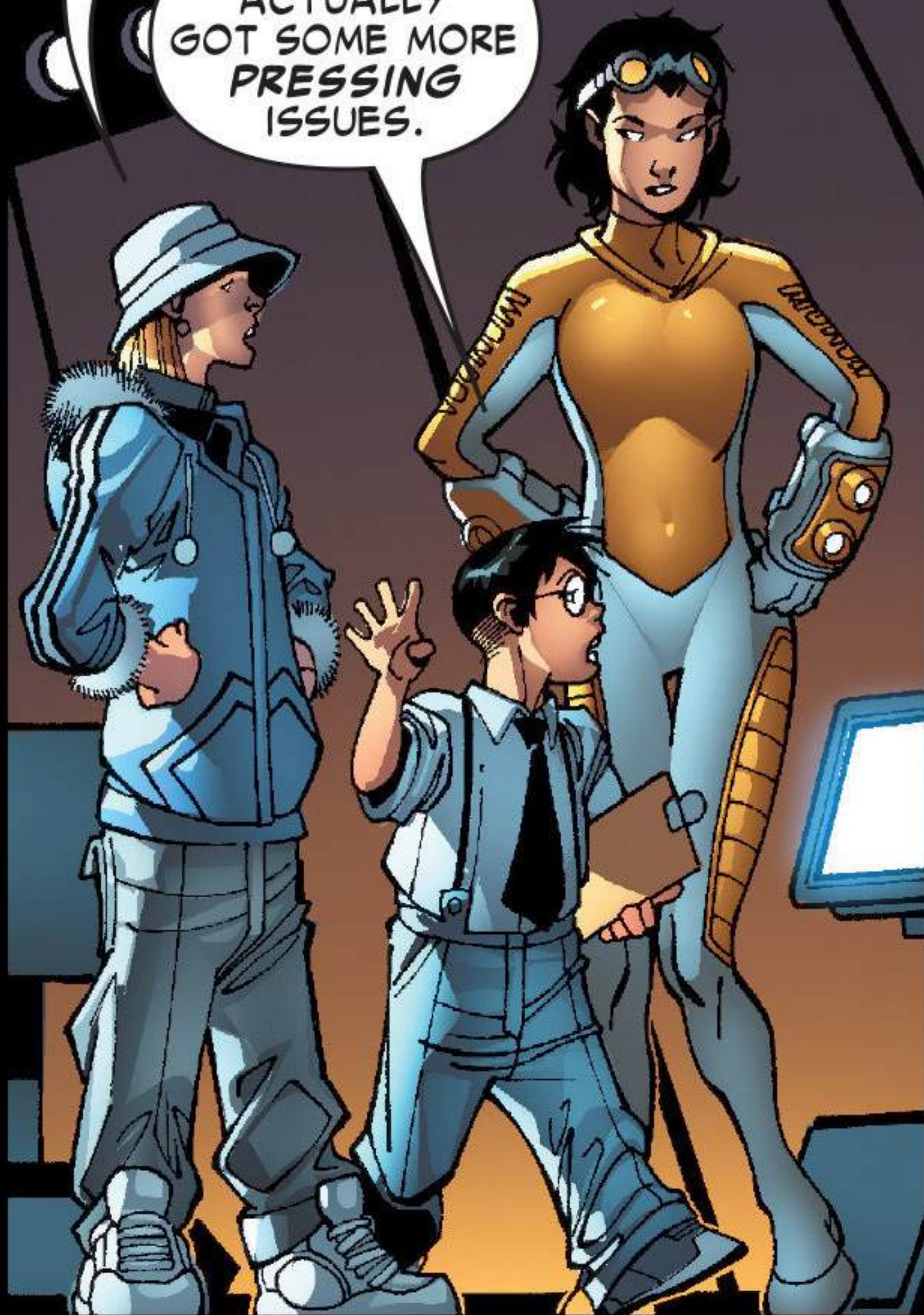
I'M ON IT. THE GIBBON HAS BEEN SIGHTED IN--

WE'VE ACTUALLY GOT SOME MORE **PRESSING** ISSUES.

WE GOTTA TAKE IT EASY ON THIS EQUIPMENT, JUBILEE. CONVERTING THE VILLAIN ARCADE'S OLD **MURDERWORLD** INTO A KIND OF **DANGER ROOM**, WAS A **BRILLIANT** IDEA BY THRASH, BUT WE NEED TO **CONSERVE** RESOURCES.

WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, KAZ? WE'VE GOT TO TRAIN.

"TRAIN", NOT SMASH. WEB-SHOOTERS, WIDOW'S STINGERS, ANTI-GRAVITY DISCS-- YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TAKES ME TO REVERSE-ENGINEER THIS STUFF?



WHOA. SLOW YOUR ROLL, DOG. M'BOY THRASH IS THE ONE WHO DESIGNS THIS TECH. NOT YOU.

BUT I BUILD THEM. ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU'RE JUST A HACK.

AND YOU'RE SHORT.



OKAYOKAY-- ENOUGH.

GET AJA IN HERE AND GET BACK TO WORK. I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.



ALL THE THINGS WE'VE SEEN AS X-MEN-- THE HORRIFIC FUTURES, THE ALTERNATE TIMELINES-- **REGISTRATION** IS HOW IT ALL BEGINS. FEARS TURNED INTO LAWS TO PROTECT NON-POWERED HUMANS.

YOU'RE WRONG. THE ONE THING THAT'S DIFFERENT: **HEROES** ARE THE ONES WHO INITIATED REGISTRATION HERE. NOT MADMEN, NOT SENTINELS... AND IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING FOR THE **BETTER**.

BUT AT WHAT COST? BEING A **SELLOUT** WITH **THE MAN'S** FOOT ON YOUR NECK? I DON'T THINK SO.

"THE MAN?" STOP BEING SO MELODRAMATIC. STARK IS NOT A FASCIST. HE MIGHT BE AN OLD FOGY, BUT HE'S TRYING TO STOP PEOPLE'S FEARS.

ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES. YOU COULD BE ONE OF US.

I WAS WORKING IN A HALFWAY HOUSE FOR DEPOWERED MUTANTS, WHEN THRASH APPROACHED ME, ASKED WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I HAD NO IDEA.

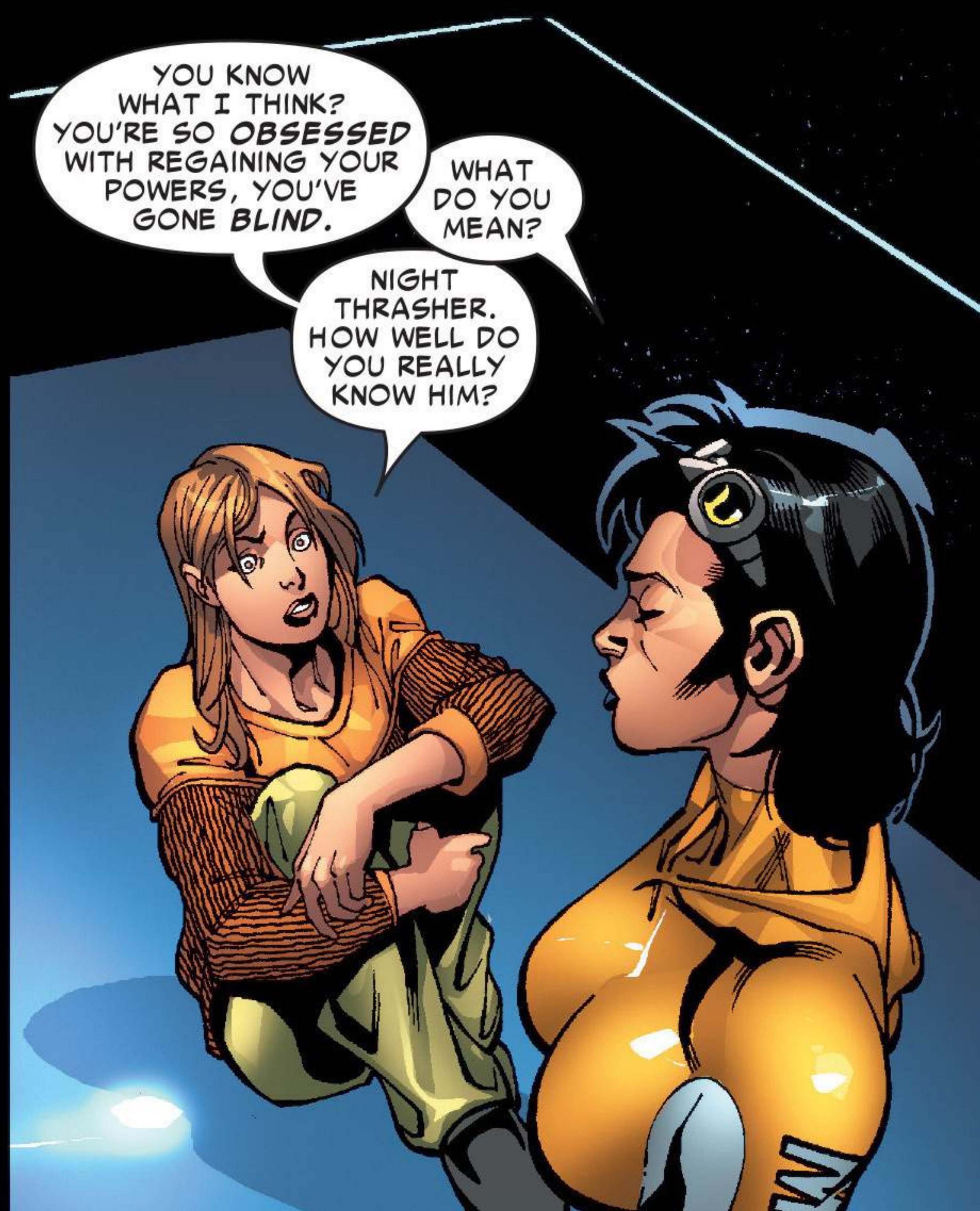
WE WERE X-MEN, SOFIA. WE'VE BEEN TO DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE AND BACK. SEEN THINGS THAT MOST PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.

THRASH GAVE ME A CHANCE TO BE ALIVE AGAIN.

NOW WE LIVE **FREE**, HIT **FAST**, AND **DIE** IF WE HAVE TO, TO GET THE JOB DONE. THAT'S HOW WE ROLL. JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE IN THE X-MEN.

HEH-HEH... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

I'M SORRY I--
HABAHAHA!





...I'D BE GLAD TO COOPERATE, BUT I DON'T REALLY SEE HOW I CAN HELP.



FIGURE IT OUT, MR. TAYLOR. OR SHOULD I SAY, "BANDIT"?

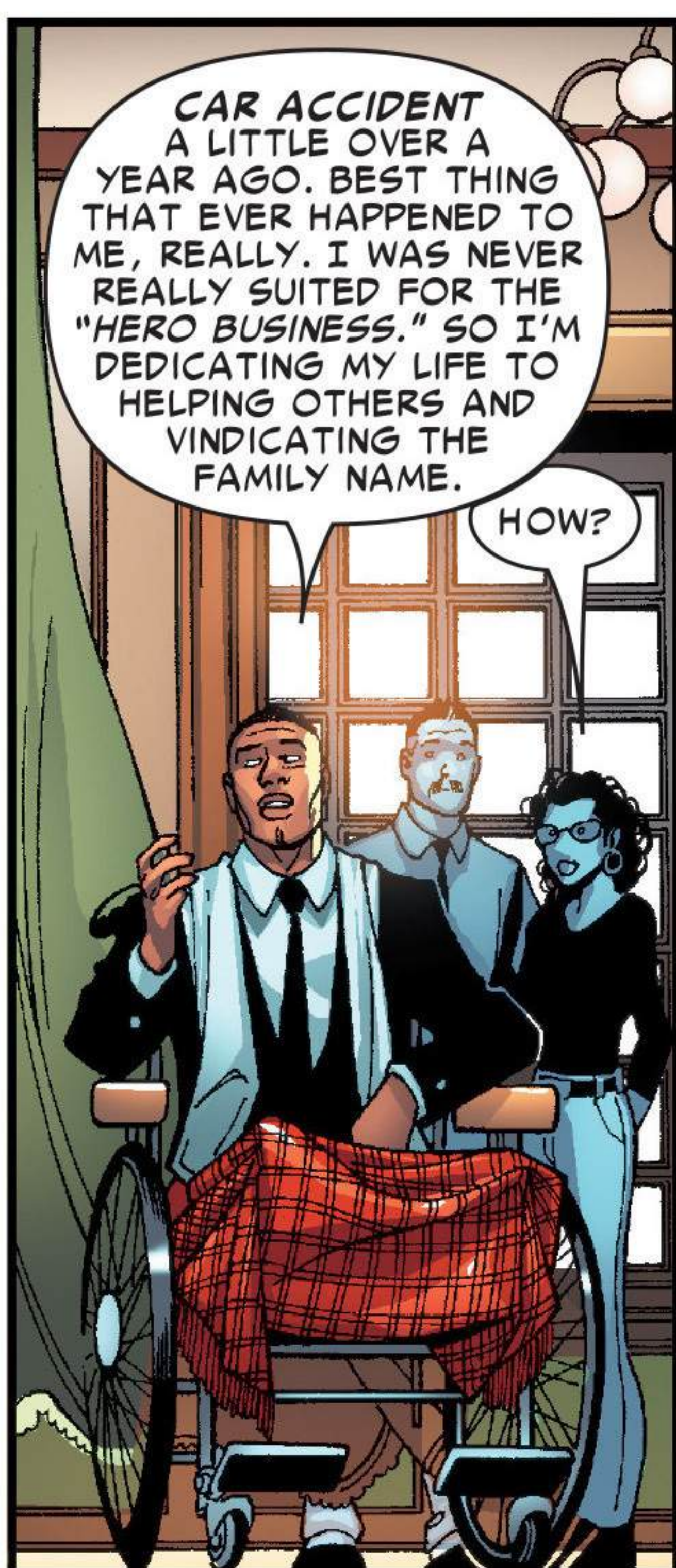
YOU'RE A FORMER MEMBER OF A SUPER-TEAM ONCE RUN BY YOUR BROTHER, ONE THAT'S CURRENTLY OPERATING OUTSIDE THE LAW.

THAT WAS A LIFETIME AGO. I'M AN ENGINEER AND A PHILANTHROPIST NOW.



I'M NOT THAT PERSON ANYMORE.

WE...DIDN'T KNOW.



CAR ACCIDENT A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO. BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME, REALLY. I WAS NEVER REALLY SUITED FOR THE "HERO BUSINESS." SO I'M DEDICATING MY LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS AND VINDICATING THE FAMILY NAME.

HOW?



AFTER DWAYNE DIED, THE NAME "NEW WARRIORS" MADE A LITTLE MONEY FROM GLOBAL MULTIMEDIA RIGHTS. I USED IT TO RESTART THE TAYLOR FOUNDATION AS A SMALL DISASTER RELIEF CHARITY FOR THE FAMILIES IN STAMFORD.

MY FATHER HAD A LOT OF RICH AND POWERFUL FRIENDS, SO MONEY FLOWED IN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.



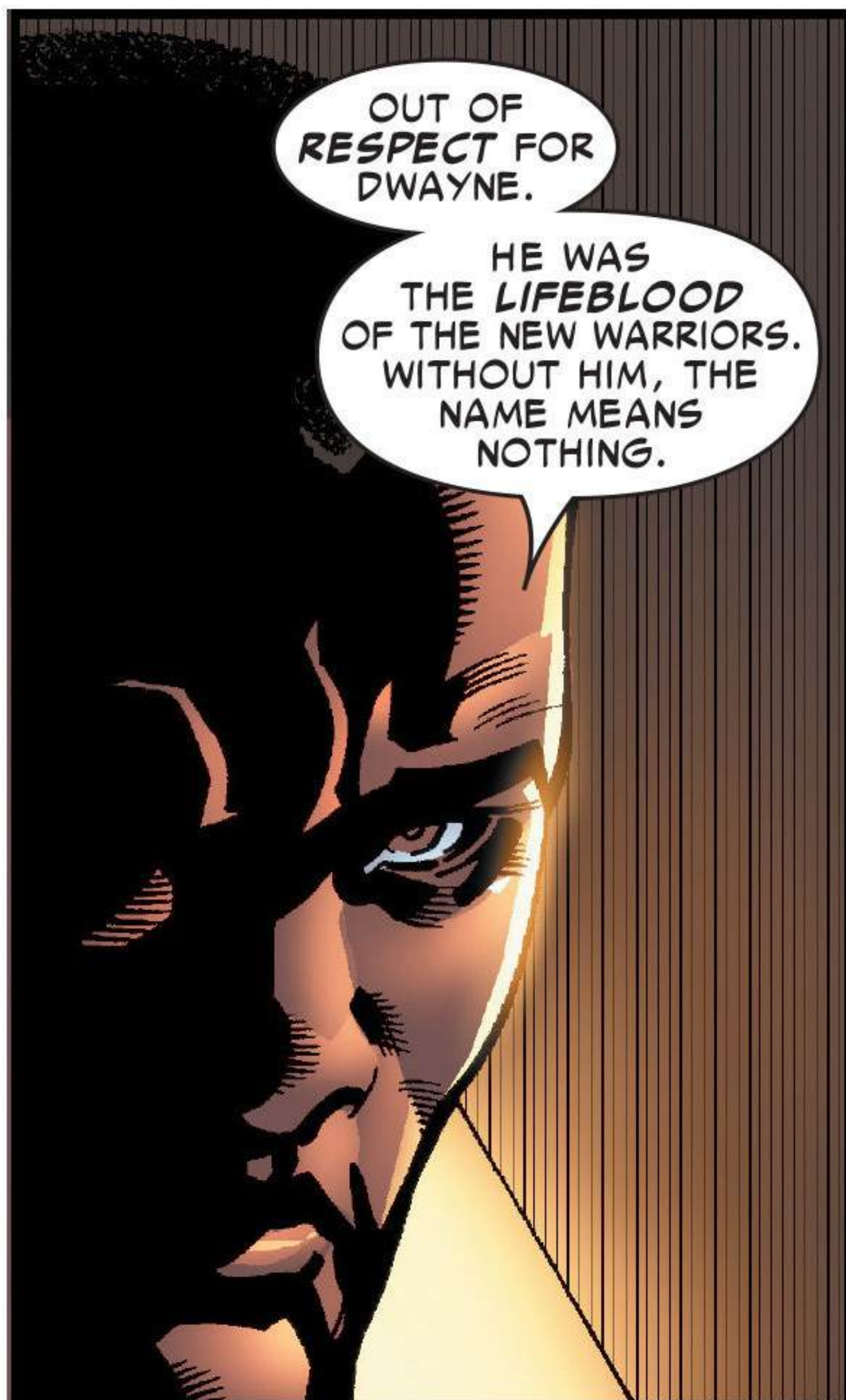
BUT IF YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT ALL OF THIS, IT WAS THE MONEY I MADE FROM MY MANY PATENTS THAT ALLOWED ME TO FOUND TAYLORDYNE TECHNOLOGIES AND RESTORE THE FAMILY FORTUNE. AS YOU CAN SEE, I WAS EVEN ABLE TO BUY BACK THE OLD TOWER.



THAT'S ALL VERY NICE... DO YOU KNOW ANY **OLD MEMBERS** WHO MIGHT WANT TO RESTART THE TEAM?

YEAH. ALL OF THEM. BUT THEY WOULDN'T DO THAT.

AND WHY NOT?



OUT OF **RESPECT** FOR DWAYNE.

HE WAS THE **LIFEBLOOD** OF THE NEW WARRIORS. WITHOUT HIM, THE NAME MEANS NOTHING.



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW YOUR BROTHER?

HIS **FUNERAL**.

YOU **SURE** ABOUT THAT?



WHAT ARE YOU **SUGGESTING**?

THE M.E. INTIMATED THERE WASN'T ENOUGH OF HIS BODY TO MAKE A POSITIVE I.D. AND EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM TWELVE CRIMINALS CAPTURED THIS MONTH SAY THEY WERE APPREHENDED BY A MAN WEARING BLACK AND RED KEVLAR. EACH OF THEM WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF FRACTURED SKULLS, CRACKED RIBS, MISSING TEETH AND BROKEN JAWS ADMINISTERED BY A **BLUNT OBJECT**.

SOUND FAMILIAR TO YOU?



NOW, YOU CAN BE A **JAMOQUE** IF YOU WANT TO, BUT **GOOD CONSTABLES** THAT WE ARE, WE'RE GONNA COMB THROUGH YOUR LIFE LIKE A RAKE THROUGH AUTUMN GRASS.



AND I CAN ASSURE YOU, IF WE COME UP WITH **ANYTHING** THAT EVEN COMES CLOSE TO SMELLING FISHY, THE ENSUING **NEGATIVE PUBLICITY** FOR YOUR NEW FOUNDATION WILL MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN.

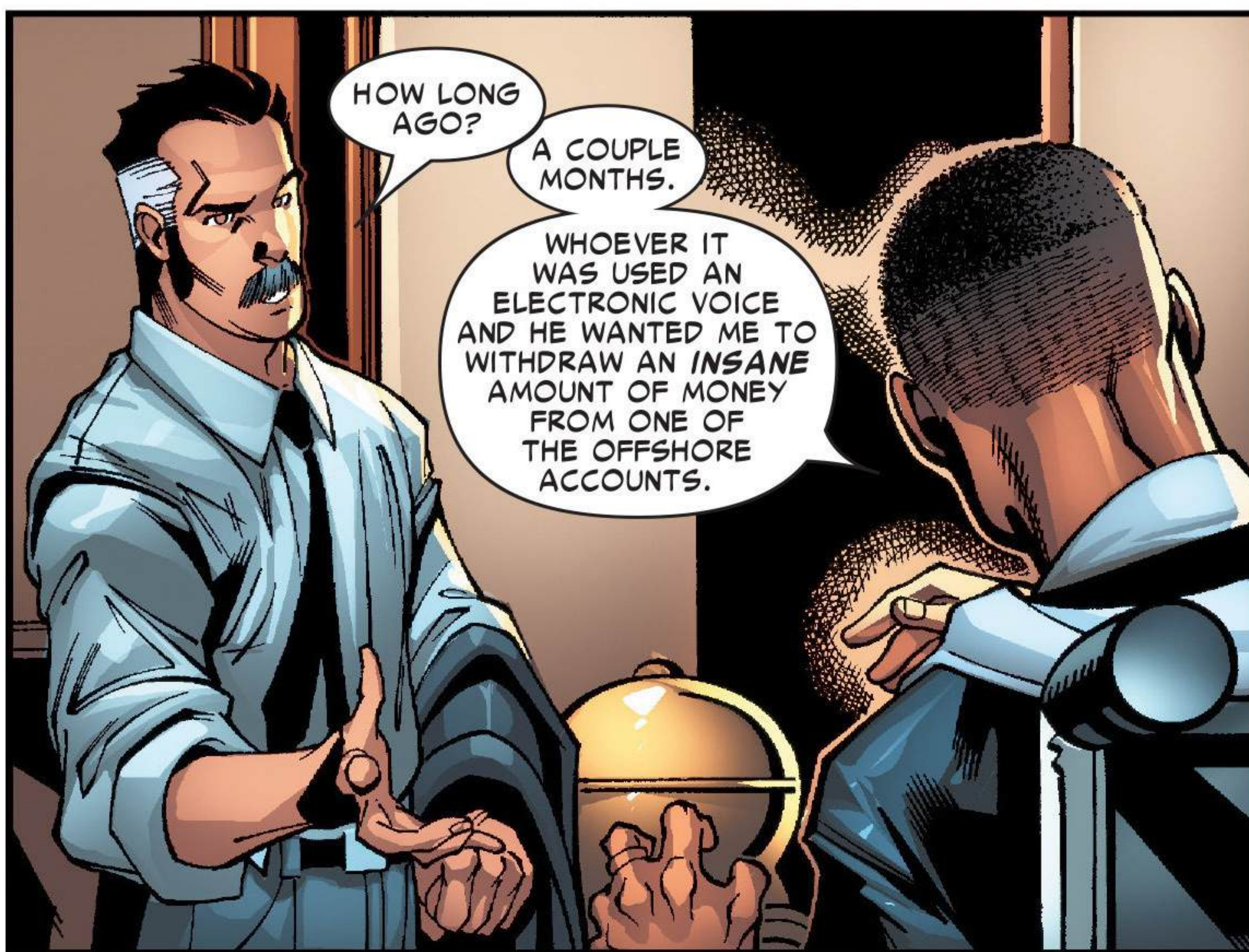
WE'LL SUBPOENA ALL PERSONAL AND COMPANY RECORDS IN THE MORNING.

HAVE A NICE DAY.

WAIT A MINUTE.



I GOT A
PHONE CALL.
SOMETIME
BACK.



HOW LONG
AGO?

A COUPLE
MONTHS.

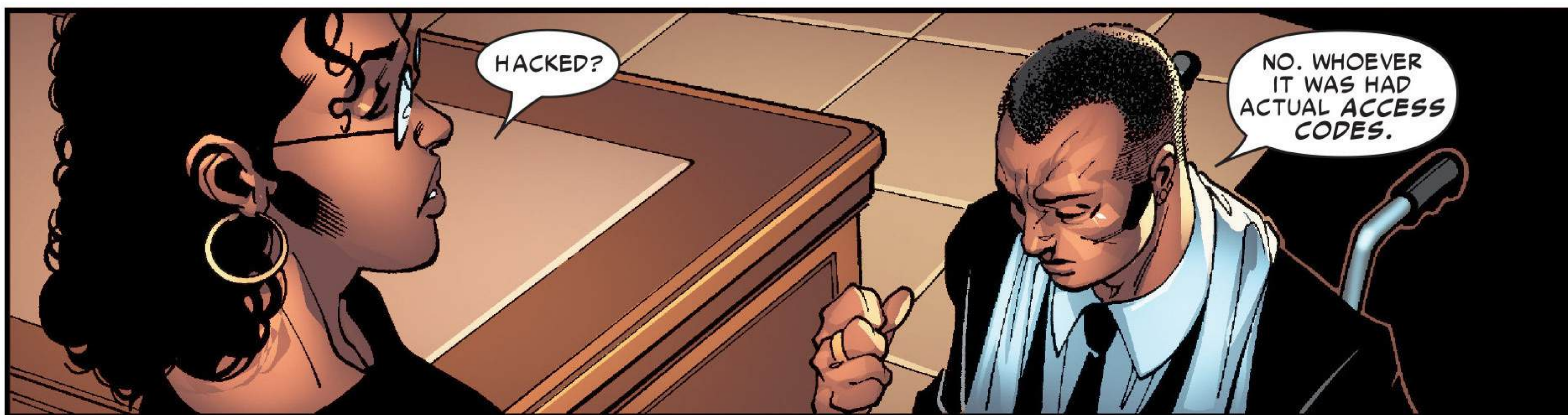
WHOEVER IT
WAS USED AN
ELECTRONIC VOICE
AND HE WANTED ME TO
WITHDRAW AN *INSANE*
AMOUNT OF MONEY
FROM ONE OF
THE OFFSHORE
ACCOUNTS.



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

IT WAS
EXTORTION. I
SAID NO.

BUT IT
DIDN'T MATTER.
SOMEHOW THE MONEY
WAS *WITHDRAWN*
ANYWAY.



HACKED?

NO. WHOEVER
IT WAS HAD
ACTUAL ACCESS
CODES.



WHO ALL
WAS PRIVY
TO THAT
INFORMATION?

I'M
THE ONLY
ONE...



...BESIDES
DWAYNE.



...HE HASN'T
EVEN TAKEN
HIS MASK OFF
IN FRONT
OF US.

LOOK, JUBES--
HE PROBABLY GOT
SCARRED UP IN THE
BLAST AT STAMFORD,
OR SOMETHING. LIKE
DR. DOOM.

THAT
SHOULD
HOLD.

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW
IT'S EVEN HIM, BARRY?
I MEAN, IT COULD BE
ANYBODY UNDER
THAT MASK.

WHAT *DIFFERENCE* DOES
IT MAKE WHO HE IS?
HE'S BEEN STRAIGHT
WITH US SO FAR,
RIGHT?

HE *CREATED*
THIS TEAM. HE
GAVE US A CHANCE
TO STILL BE *HEROES*.
WHAT MORE DO
YOU WANT?

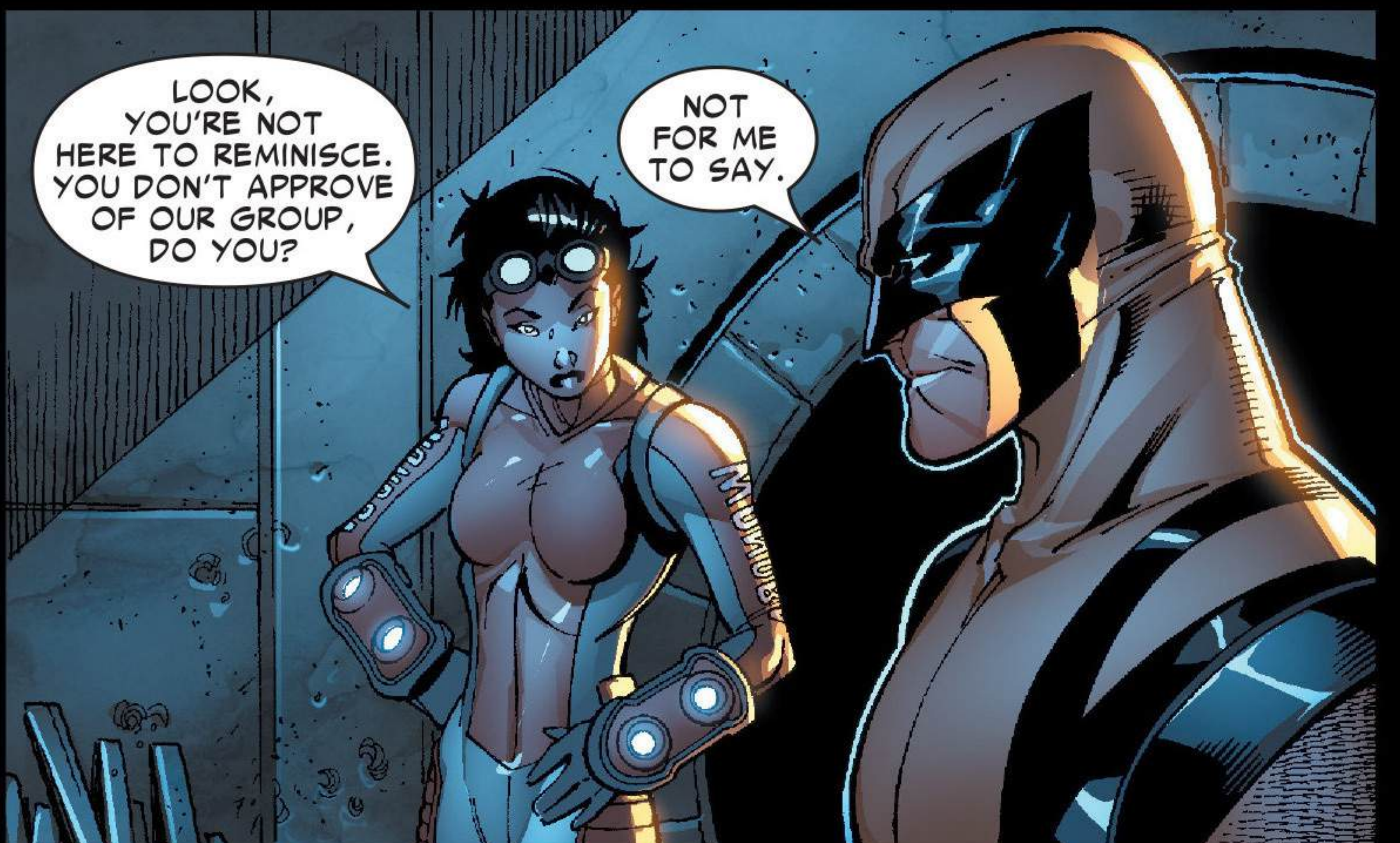
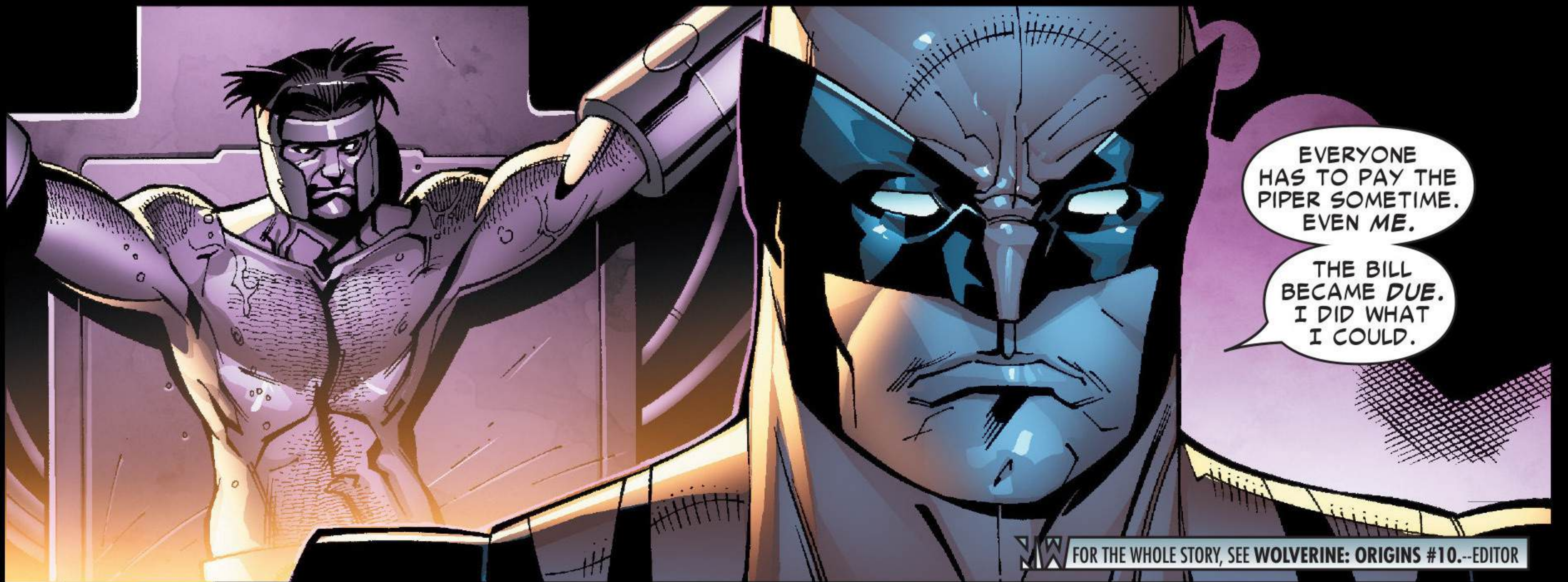
I KNOW...
I'M JUST THINKIN'
OUT LOUD,
THAT'S ALL.

SKRITCH

LOGAN?

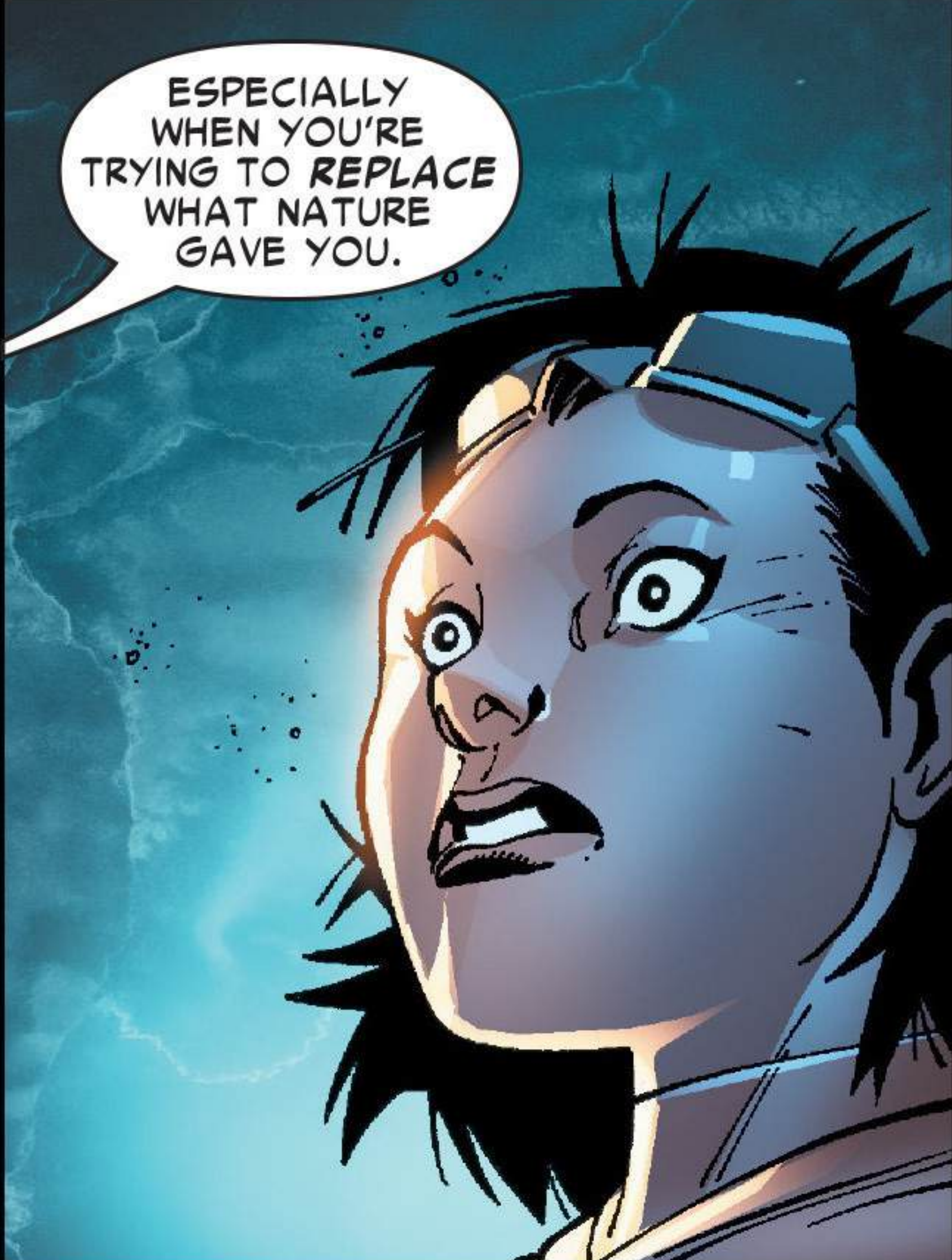
HOW DID
YOU--?

YOU
HAVE TO
ASK?





JUST REMEMBER, THESE AIN'T THE OLD DAYS, DARLIN'. THEY'RE PLAYIN' FOR KEEPS. IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE.



ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO REPLACE WHAT NATURE GAVE YOU.



I REMEMBER WHEN IT HAPPENED TO ME. MAGNETO RIPPED THE ADAMANTIUM RIGHT OUTTA MY BODY. HURT LIKE HELL.



FOR A WHILE THERE, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER MAKE IT BACK. FELT USELESS. LIKE I COULDN'T PULL MY WEIGHT IN TOBACCO.

BUT I HAD STORM. SHE'D BEEN THROUGH THE SAME THING ONCE.



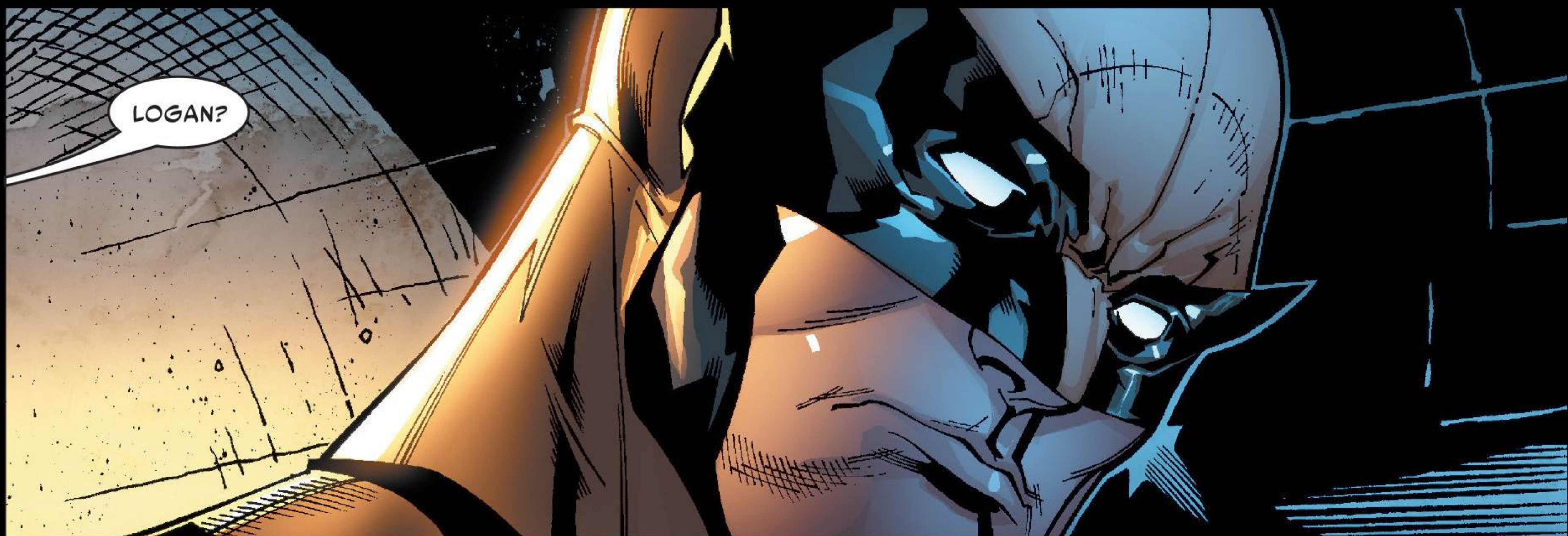
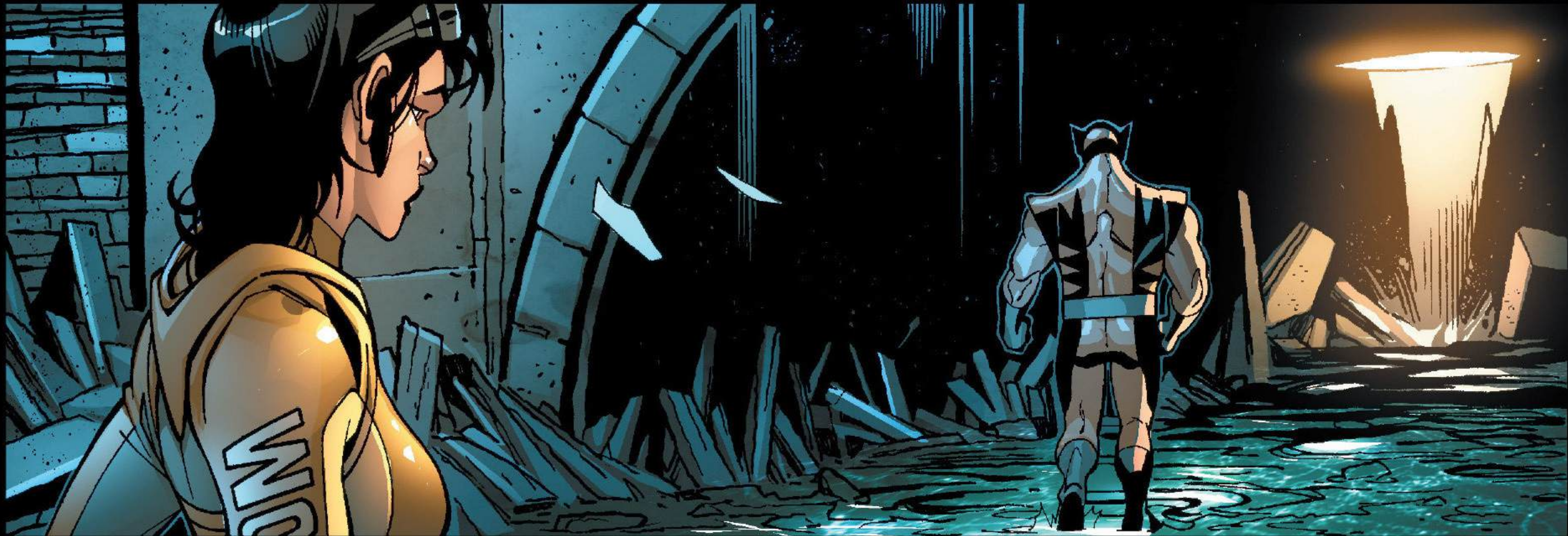
SHE REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING THAT I'D FORGOTTEN, BEIN' NEAR-INDESTRUCTIBLE FOR SO LONG.

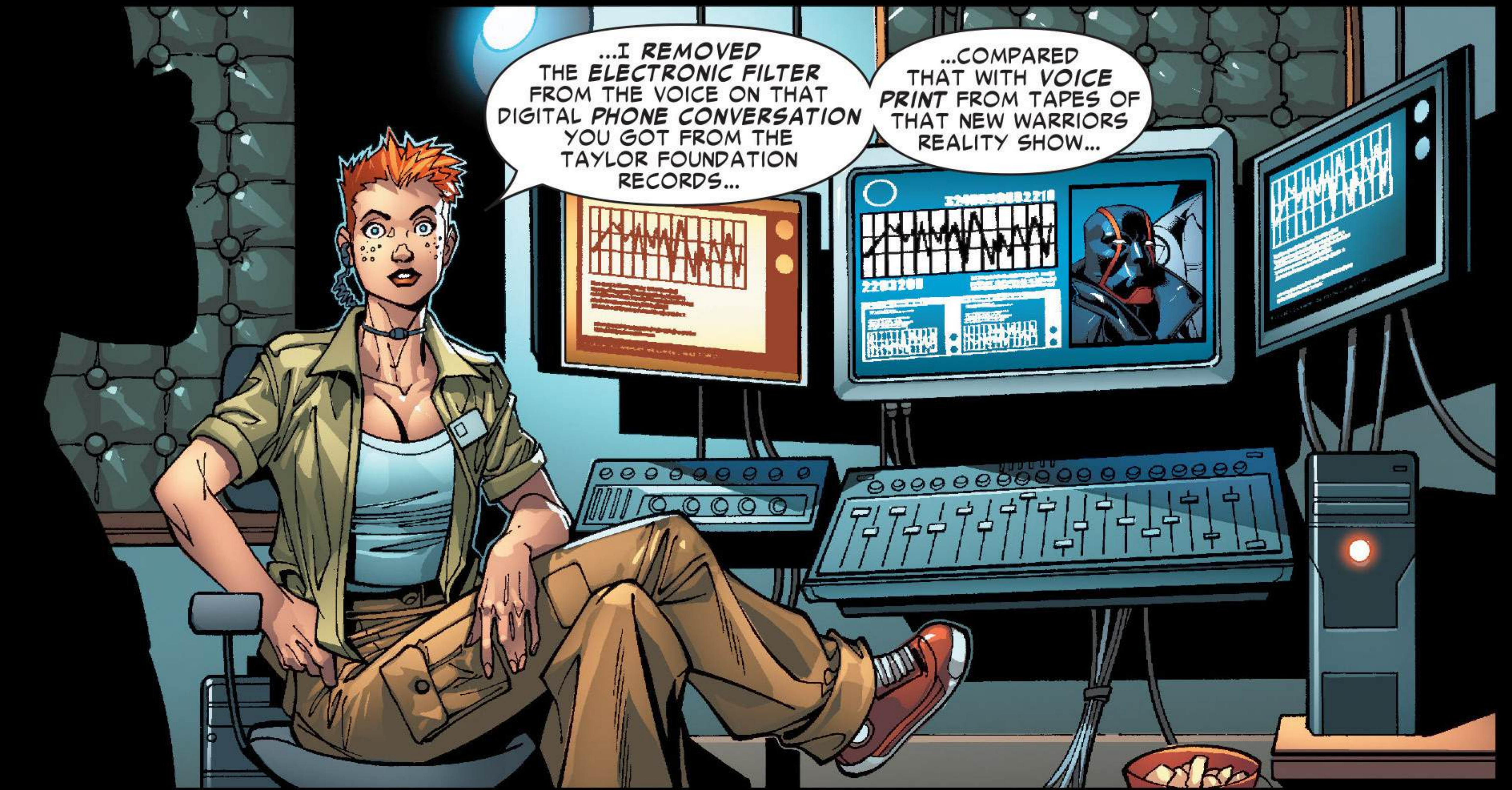
THAT I MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME WOLVERINE, BUT DAMN IF I WASN'T STILL LOGAN.



YOU WANT TO HOLD THE PAST AGAINST ME? FINE. JUST PROMISE ME ONE THING.

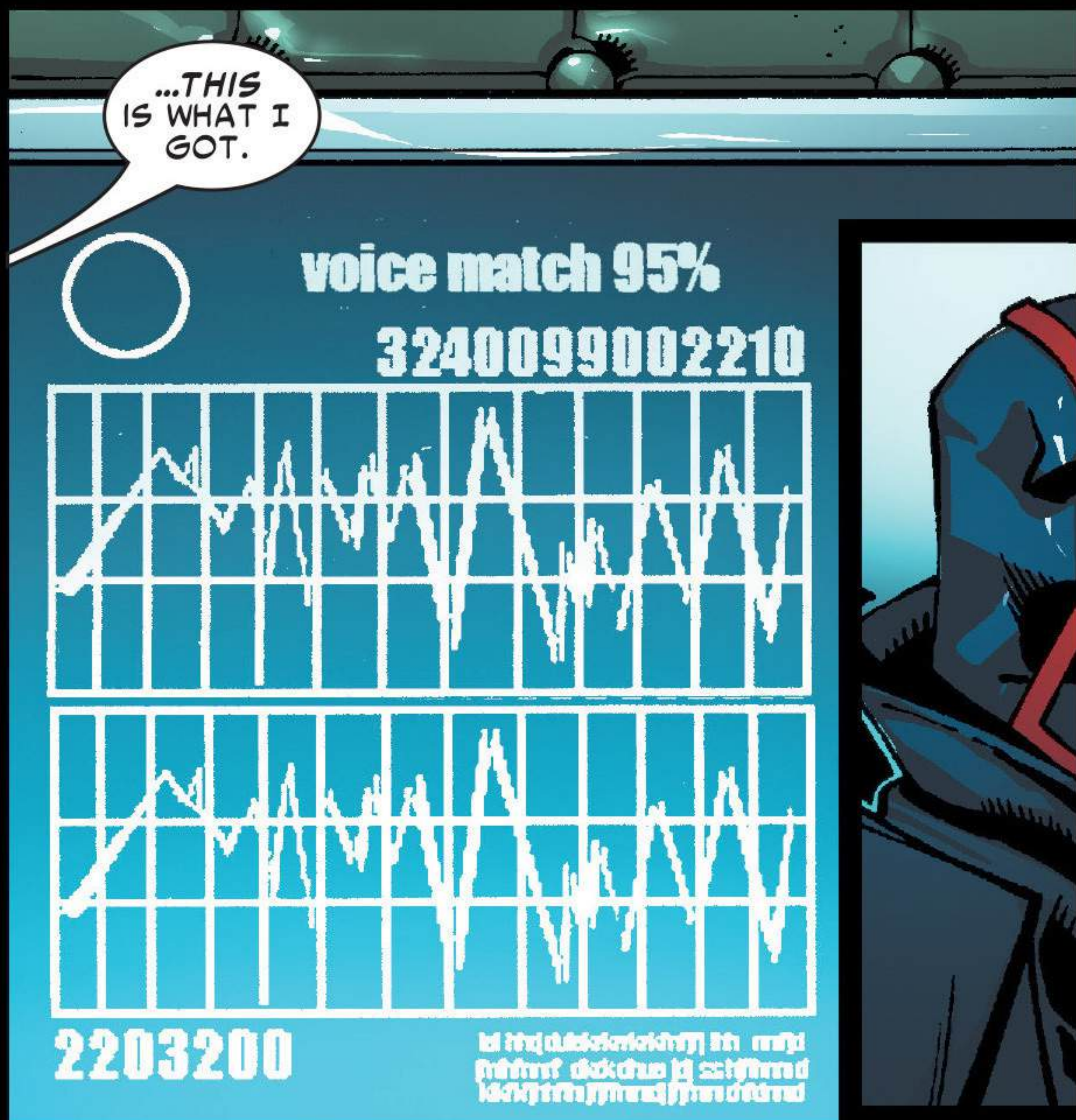
WHATEVER YOU DO, HOWEVER YOU DO IT...KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND KNOW WHO YOU ARE.





...I REMOVED THE ELECTRONIC FILTER FROM THE VOICE ON THAT DIGITAL PHONE CONVERSATION YOU GOT FROM THE TAYLOR FOUNDATION RECORDS...

...COMPARED THAT WITH VOICE PRINT FROM TAPES OF THAT NEW WARRIORS REALITY SHOW...



...THIS IS WHAT I GOT.

voice match 95%
3240099002210

2203200



HOW ACCURATE IS THIS THING?

YOU KIDDING? THIS IS STARKTECH. HE COULD'VE HAD A MOUTH FULL OF MARBLES AND IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE.



THANKS, KAREN.

HEY--WHAT ABOUT MY BOX OF KRISPY KREMES?

TRUST ME, GIRLFRIEND--YOU DON'T NEED THE CALORIES.



SOMETHING BUGGIN' YOU, SYKES? YOU SEEM A LITTLE UPTIGHT.

YOU KNOW MY FATHER WAS A COP, RIGHT?

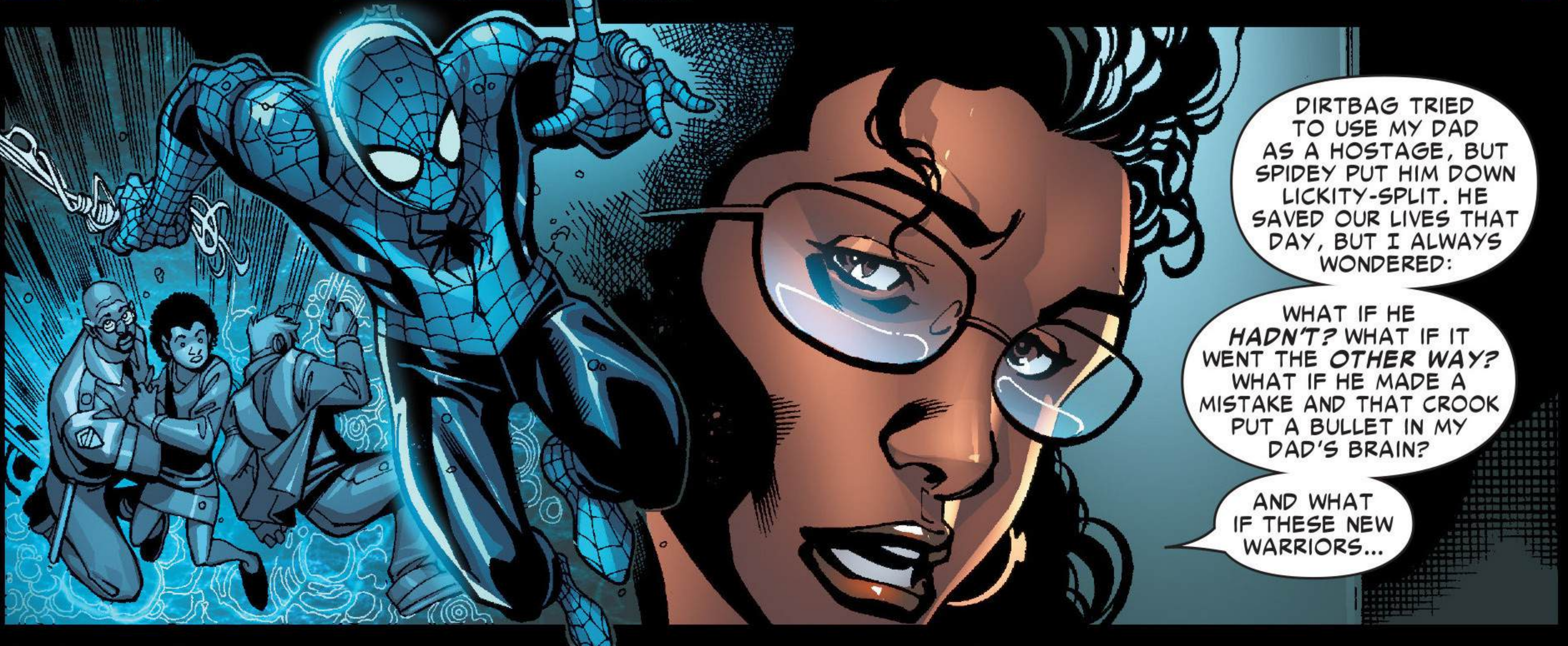
SAM SYKES? STRAIGHT SHOOTER. ONE OF THE BEST.



MY OLD MAN WALKED A BEAT NOT FAR FROM OUR HOUSE. USED TO PICK ME UP FROM SCHOOL AFTER HIS SHIFT.

ONE DAY WHEN WE WERE WALKING HOME, HE SPOOKED SOME GUY ROBBING A LIQUOR STORE. DIRTBAG SHOT MY DAD IN THE SHOULDER AND WAS ABOUT TO PUT A HOLE IN HIS HEAD WHEN NONE OTHER THAN *SPIDER-MAN* SHOWED UP.

YOU'RE KIDDIN' ME.



DIRTBAG TRIED TO USE MY DAD AS A HOSTAGE, BUT SPIDEY PUT HIM DOWN LICKITY-SPLIT. HE SAVED OUR LIVES THAT DAY, BUT I ALWAYS WONDERED:

WHAT IF HE *HADN'T*? WHAT IF IT WENT THE *OTHER WAY*? WHAT IF HE MADE A MISTAKE AND THAT CROOK PUT A BULLET IN MY DAD'S BRAIN?

AND WHAT IF THESE NEW WARRIORS...



DON'T DWELL ON *HYPOTHETICALS*. THEY'LL MAKE YOUR BRAIN ITCH.



--SO WE HAVE A MISSING BODY, A PROBABLE VOICE MATCH, AND A GANG OF EX-NEW WARRIORS WHO MOST LIKELY WON'T TALK. WHAT'S NEXT?

MAKE LIKE A BANKER AND FOLLOW THE MONEY.



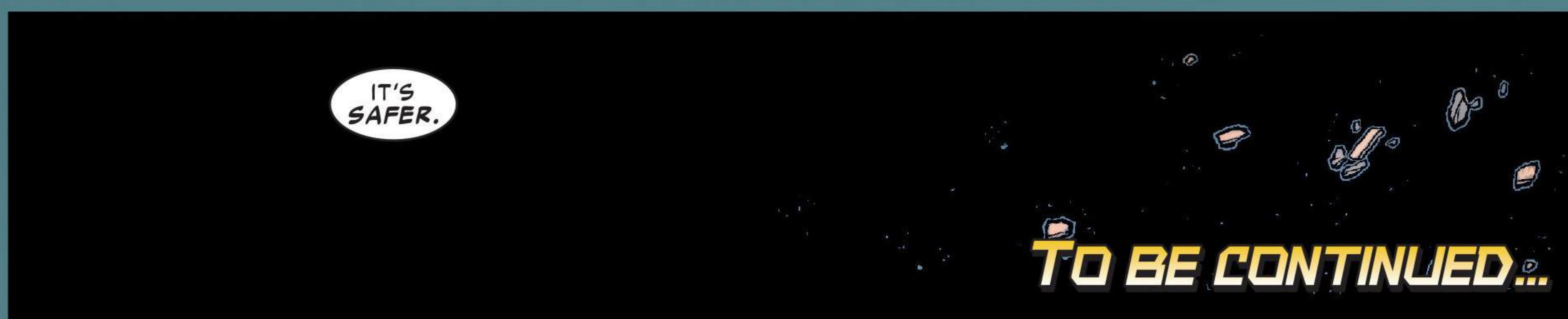
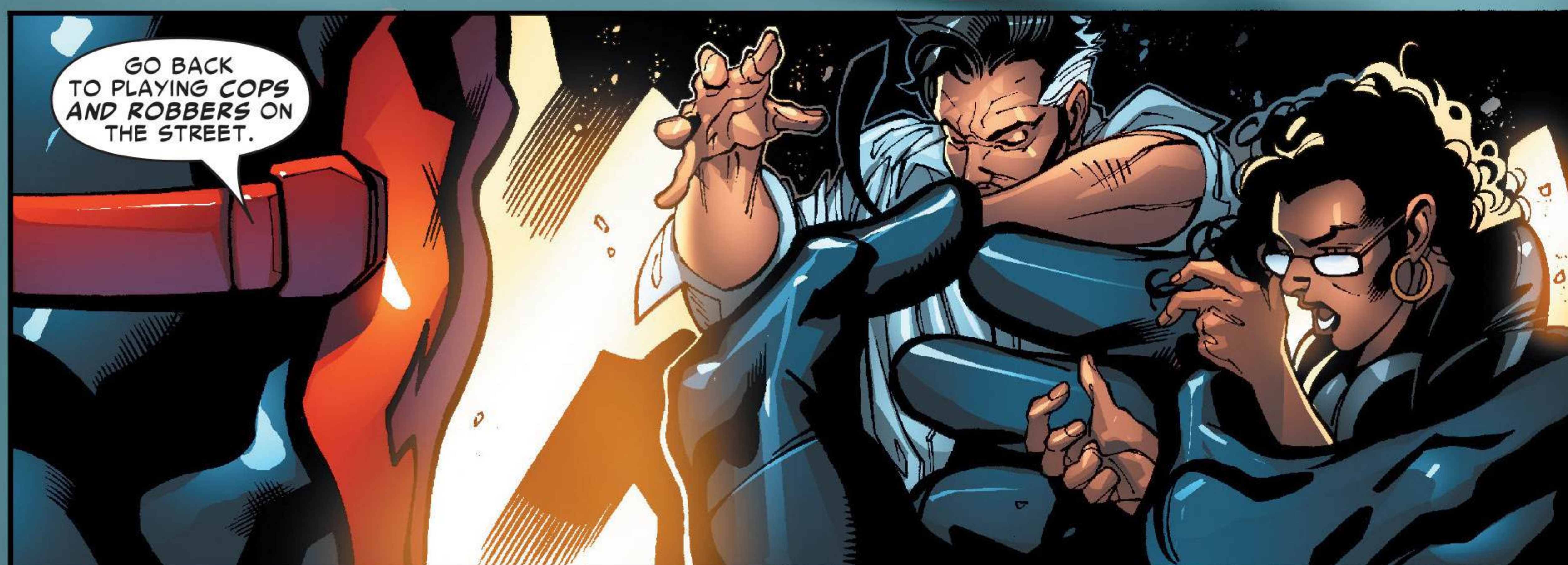
EXACTLY. WE KNOW IT COSTS A LOT OF MONEY TO OPERATE A SUPER-TEAM. AND THEY HAVE TO HAVE SOME SORT OF *HOME BASE*, RIGHT?

DON'T THEY ALL?

SO, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FOLLOW LARGE PURCHASES AND DELIVERIES OF ELECTRONIC ITEMS IN AND AROUND THE TRI-STATE AREA.

SKETCH





MARVEL

4

GREVIOUX
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA

THE INITIATIVE™

NEW WARRIORS®



PREVIOUSLY...

SOMEONE IS GIFT-WRAPPING SUPER-VILLAINS FOR THE POLICE. SOMEONE IS DEFACING SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION POSTERS. SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE NYPD COSTUMED DIVISION STUMPED. AND THE ONLY CLUE TO THEIR IDENTITIES? A SINGLE PHRASE, SPRAY-PAINTED ON THE FLOOR OF AN ALLEY: THE NEW WARRIORS WERE HERE.

IN THE WAKE OF M-DAY, NEW X-MAN SOFIA MANTEGA, A.K.A. WIND DANCER, WAS STRIPPED OF HER MUTANT POWERS. HOPING TO CARVE OUT A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF, SOFIA LEFT THE X-MEN BEHIND, AND FOUND HERSELF A JOB AS A WAITRESS IN NEW YORK CITY. HOWEVER, AS SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION BECOMES LAW, SHE FEELS HER FORMER LIFE BECKONING TO HER.

MEANWHILE, NYPD DETECTIVES BEVERLY SYKES AND HAROLD GIVENS TRY TO UNMASK THESE NEW NEW WARRIORS. STARTING WITH THE REMAINS FROM STAMFORD, THE DETECTIVES LEARN THAT NO BODY WAS RECOVERED FOR THE NEW WARRIORS' FORMER LEADER, DWAYNE TAYLOR, A.K.A. NIGHT THRASHER. FOLLOWING THE ONLY LEAD THEY CAN, SYKES AND GIVENS MEET WITH DONYELL TAYLOR, HOPING TO UNCOVER MORE INFORMATION. HE TELLS THEM OF A MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL HE RECEIVED FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE, WHICH SYKES AND GIVENS DISCOVER HAS A VOICEPRINT IDENTICAL TO THAT OF DWAYNE.

LITTLE DID THE DETECTIVES KNOW THAT THE TRAIL THEY WERE FOLLOWING WOULD LEAD THEM RIGHT INTO A MEETING WITH NIGHT THRASHER HIMSELF...



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NEVER A
DULL MOMENT.
THAT'S THE
BEAUTY OF THIS
JOB, WANG.

CHANG.

SORRY.

EVERY DAY'S
AN ADVENTURE--
EVERY MOMENT A
TRIP INTO THE
UNKNOWN.

SO HOW
MANY SUPER-
VILLAINS HAVE
YOU ACTUALLY
APPREHENDED?

NONE.

"NONE"?
I DON'T
GET IT. I
THOUGHT--

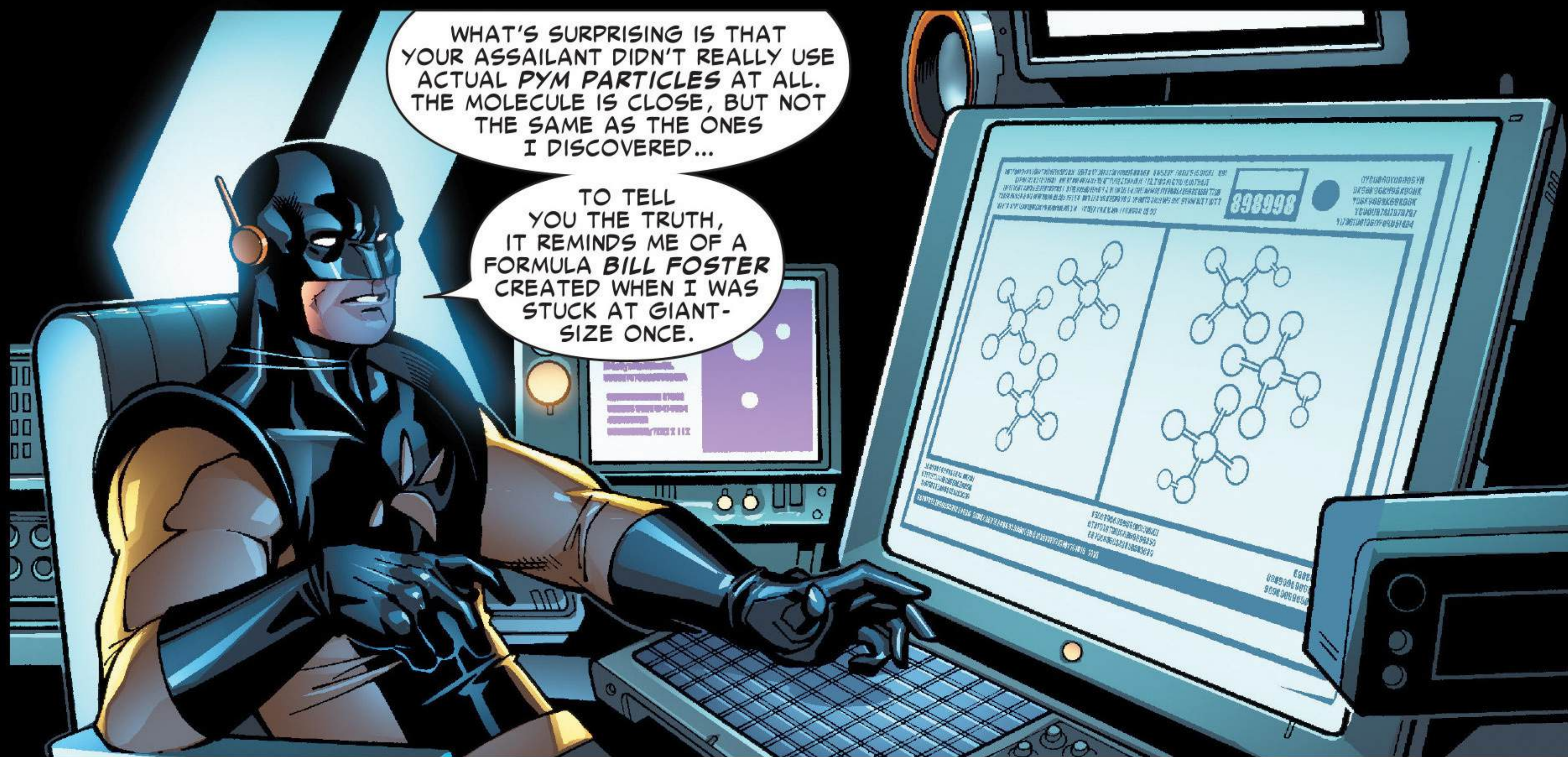
THAT'S NOT HOW WE
DO THINGS HERE AT
"LAW & ORDER:
COSTUMED DIVISION."
THAT'S STARK'S BAILIWICK.
WE BUILD THE CASE,
S.H.I.E.L.D. GIVES THE
CHASE. THAT'S HOW
IT WORKS.

SOUNDS
LIKE A PLAN.
I WONDER
WHAT SURPRISE
WE'LL GET
TODAY?

WHAT
THE--?



NOT A WORD,
GRANVILLE... NOT
A **FREAKING**
WORD!



WHAT'S SURPRISING IS THAT
YOUR ASSAILANT DIDN'T REALLY USE
ACTUAL **PYM PARTICLES** AT ALL.
THE MOLECULE IS CLOSE, BUT NOT
THE SAME AS THE ONES
I DISCOVERED...

TO TELL
YOU THE TRUTH,
IT REMINDS ME OF A
FORMULA **BILL FOSTER**
CREATED WHEN I WAS
STUCK AT GIANT-
SIZE ONCE.



BILL...

Uh...
DOC...? YOU
ALRIGHT?

JUST A
SEC...



ANYWAY,
WHOEVER
SYNTHESIZED THIS
IS A VERITABLE
GENIUS.

HOW DID
THIS HAPPEN,
ANYWAY?

IT WAS
NIGHT THRASHER.
GOT THE DROP ON US IN
THE **PRECINCT PARKING**
LOT, IF YOU CAN
BELIEVE THAT.



**MEANWHILE,
AT STARK
TOWER...**

YOU'VE
BEEN AVOIDING
MY CALLS.

YOU'RE
IMAGINING
THINGS, SECRETARY
KOONING. MY DUTIES
DO KEEP ME
QUITE BUSY.

NOT QUITE
BUSY ENOUGH,
STARK. YOU'VE DONE
NOTHING ABOUT
THESE NEW NEW
WARRIORS.

WHY?

I'VE TOLD YOU TIME
AND TIME AGAIN,
DON'T TELL ME MY
BUSINESS.

I AM YOUR
"BUSINESS."

THESE PEOPLE
ARE FAST BECOMING
A POLITICAL LIABILITY. I
HAVE HOMELAND SECURITY
ON MY BACK LIKE THE OLD
MAN OF THE SEA ABOUT
SHUTTING THEM DOWN. IF
THEY'RE NOT DEALT
WITH SOON--

--THEY COULD
BECOME A SERIOUS
EMBARRASSMENT
TO THIS
ADMINISTRATION.

AMONG
OTHER THINGS,
RIGHT, SIR?

LOOK, EITHER
YOU DEAL WITH
THEM NOW...

...OR WE'LL
SEND IN THE
THUNDERBOLTS.

OH, THAT'S
SMART. USE A
CANNON TO SWAT
FLIES. THESE ARE
KIDS, KOONING.
CHILDREN.

YOU
DON'T KNOW
THAT FOR
SURE.

IT'S
OBVIOUS.
THEIR
METHODS,
THEIR
RESPONSES--

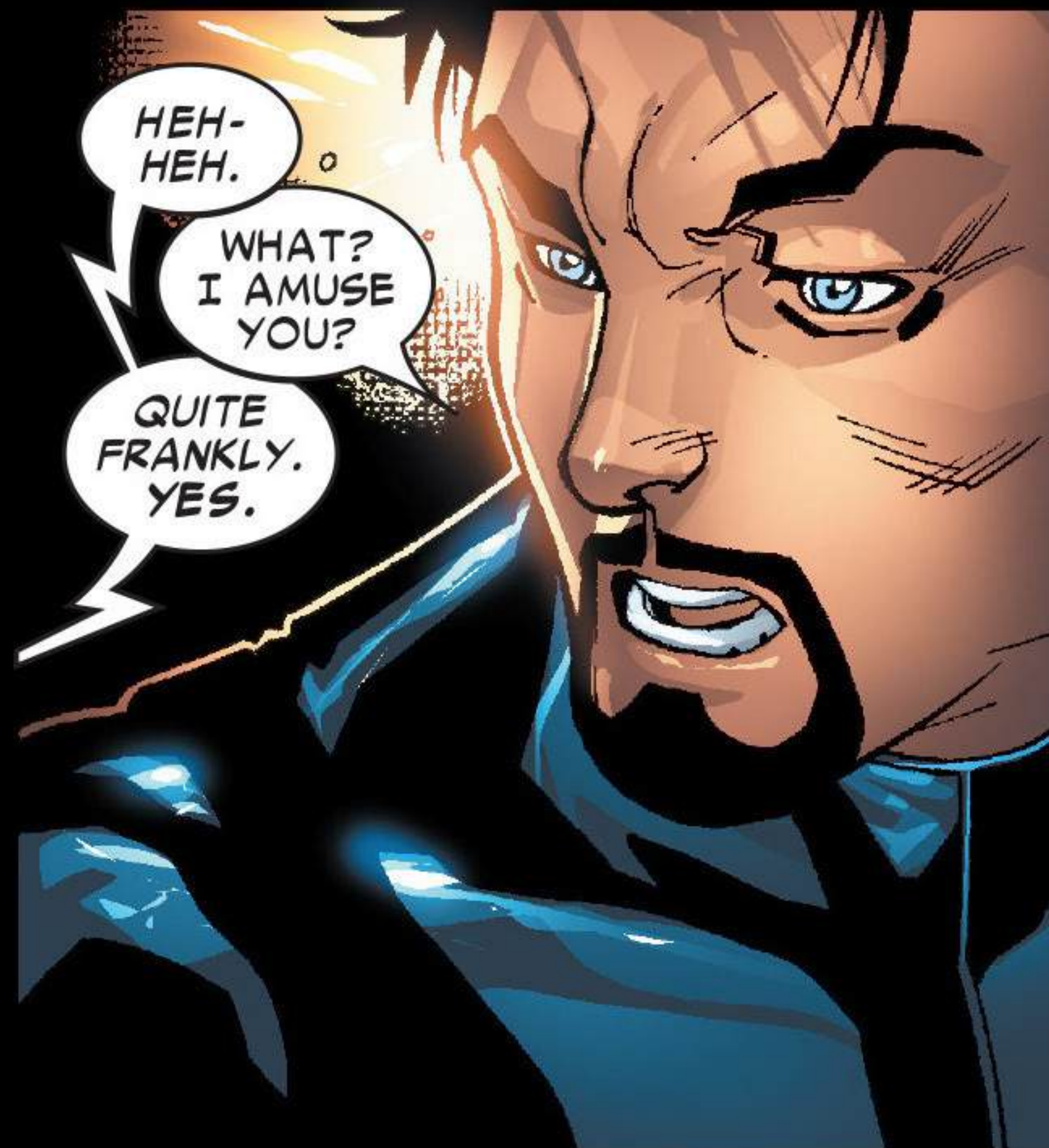


I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE **POWER PACK**, THE **MOUSEKETEERS** OR THE ORIGINAL GANG FROM **LITTLE RASCALS**! I WANT THEM STOPPED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE WE HAVE ANOTHER STAMFORD ON OUR HANDS!



USE YOUR HEAD. IF YOU USE **ANYTHING** OTHER THAN A PLANNED PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEASURED RESPONSE, YOU'LL HAVE A PUBLIC BACKLASH WORSE THAN WACO ON YOUR HANDS.

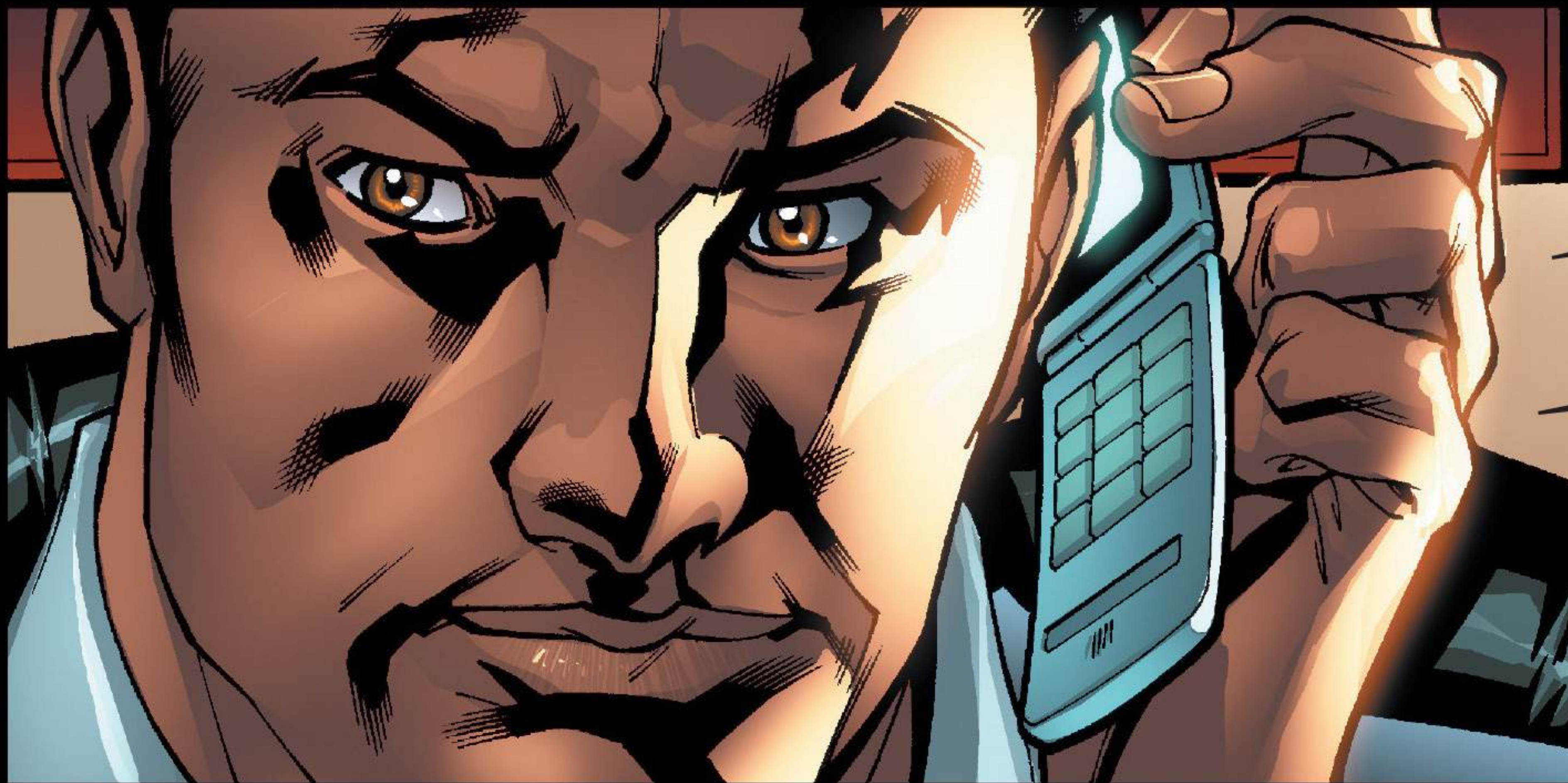
YOU WANT ME TO DO MY JOB? THEN YOU DO THINGS MY WAY OR--



HEH-HEH.

WHAT? I AMUSE YOU?

QUITE FRANKLY. YES.



YOU WEAR A **HIGH HAT**, STARK. IN FACT, WITHOUT THE MOUSTACHE YOU'D ALMOST REMIND ME OF OL' HONEST ABE LINCOLN.

ALMOST.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



THE TROUBLE WITH HIGH HATS:

THEY TEND TO FALL OFF WHEN THE **WIND BLOWS** OR YOU WALK TOO FAST.

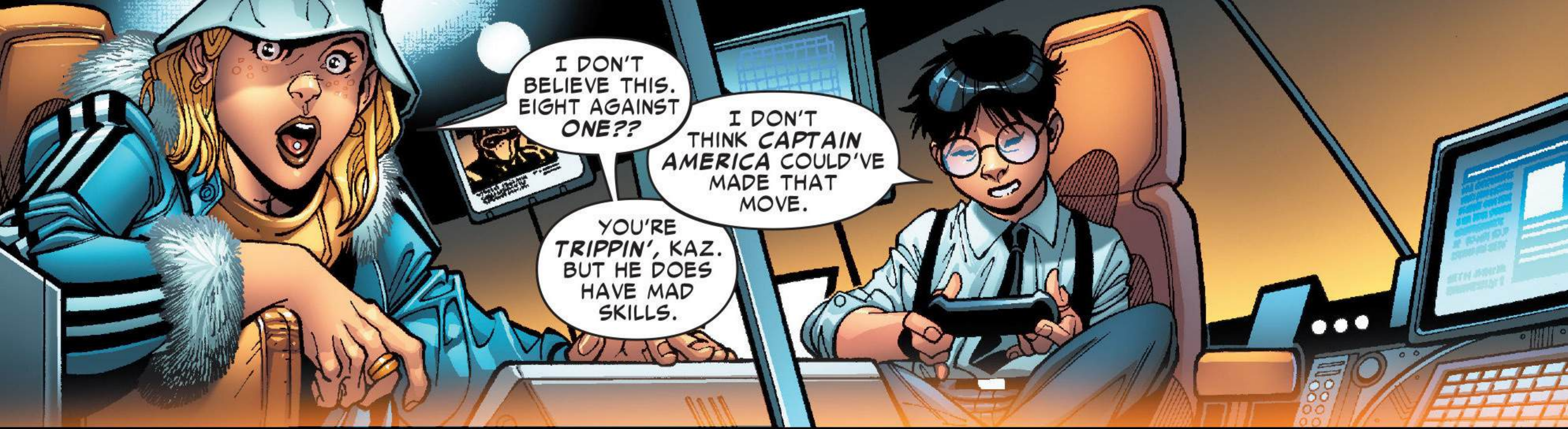


IS THAT A **THREAT**?

JUST AN OBSERVATION.

DON'T DISAPPOINT ME.

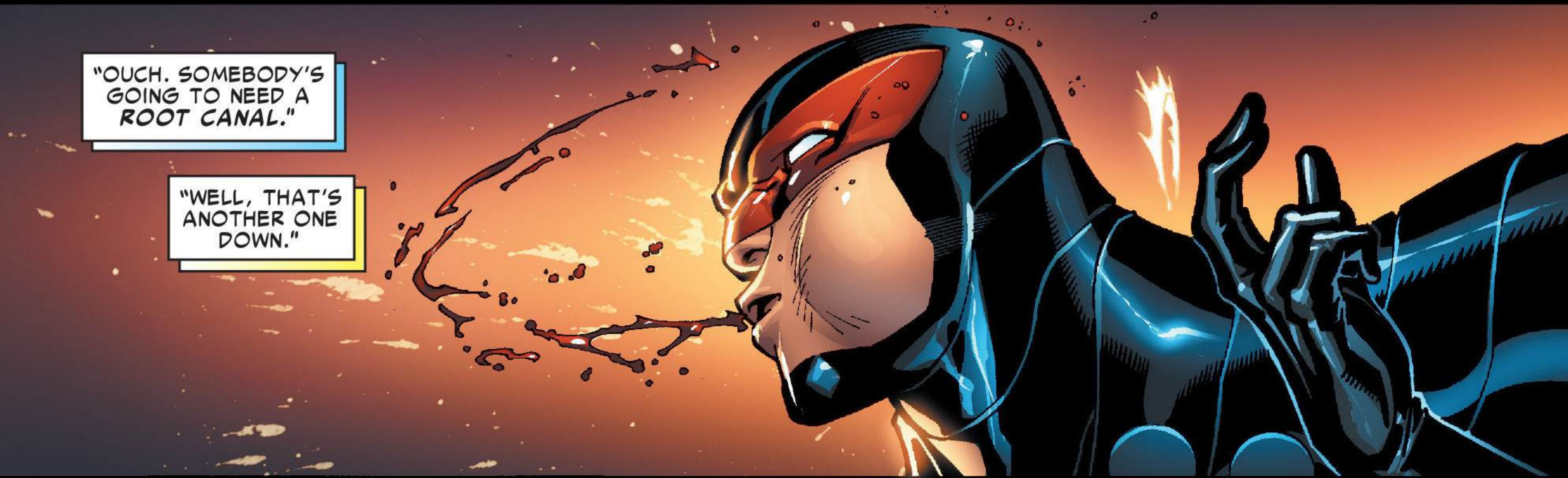
CLICK



I DON'T BELIEVE THIS. EIGHT AGAINST ONE??

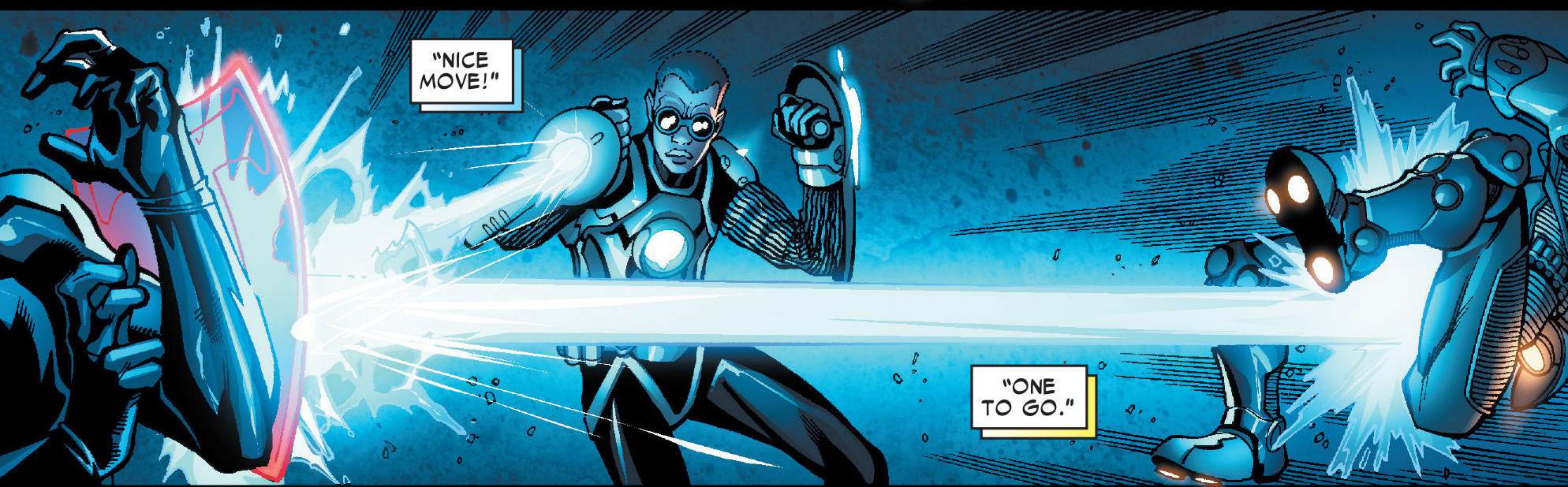
I DON'T THINK CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD'VE MADE THAT MOVE.

YOU'RE TRIPPIN', KAZ. BUT HE DOES HAVE MAD SKILLS.



"OUCH. SOMEBODY'S GOING TO NEED A ROOT CANAL."

"WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER ONE DOWN."

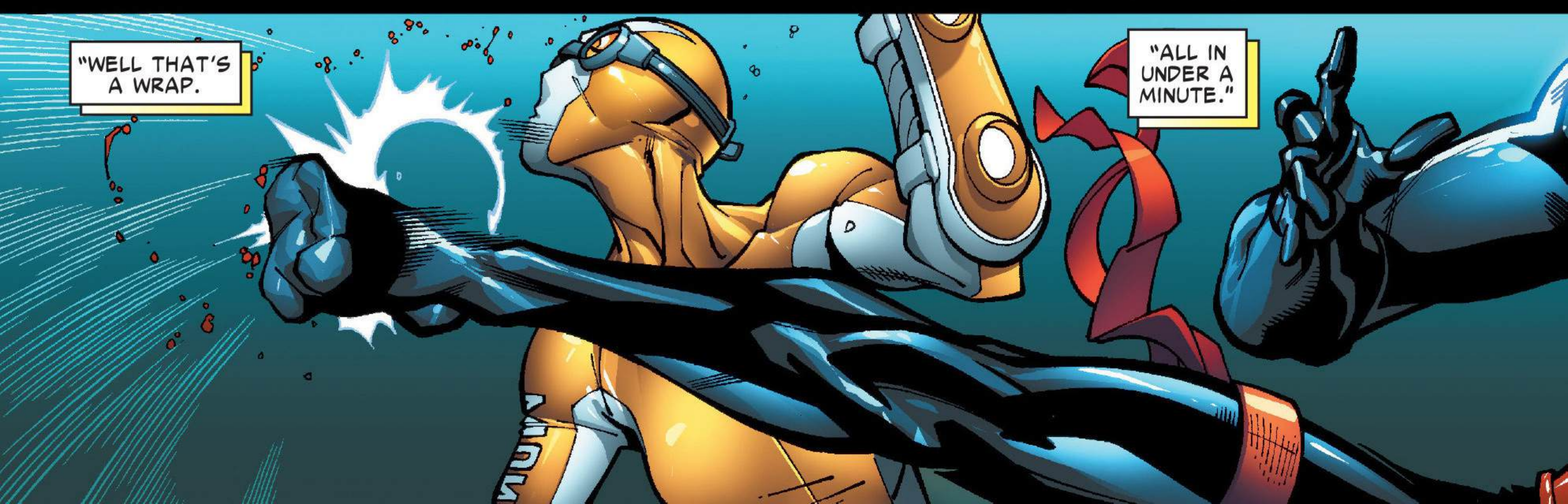


"NICE MOVE!"

"ONE TO GO."



"LIKE HE SAID, 'POWERS GET IN THE WAY.'"



"WELL THAT'S A WRAP."

"ALL IN UNDER A MINUTE."



PATHETIC.



YOU HIT ME WHEN MY BACK WAS TURNED!

EASY, SIS...

THAT'S THE POINT, LONGSTRIKE.

YOU THINK DOC OCK, NITRO OR COUNT NEFARIA IS GOING TO TAP YOU ON THE SHOULDER AND FIGHT FAIR?



WE'RE JUST NOT USED TO THIS EQUIPMENT YET.

YEAH, FLYING FEELS KIND OF STRANGE WITHOUT MY NORMAL WINGS. THESE ANTI-GRAVITY DISCS DON'T GIVE ME THE SAME SENSE OF CONTROL.



YOU KNOW, WE COULD ALWAYS TRADE, ANGEL.

BUT I THINK I LIKE YOU AS "MS. FIRE AND ICE." MAKES THINGS INTERESTING.

YOU'RE SWEET.



REPLACING YOUR NATURAL MUTANT ABILITIES WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ONES IS NOT EASY, ANGEL. I NEVER SAID IT WAS. BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE ADJUSTMENT. AND THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YOU. YOUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.



I DON'T KNOW HOW THE STILT-MAN EVER USED THESE THINGS. THEY MAKE ME DIZZY.

HE PRACTICED. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, IF WE HAVE TO. STARTING TODAY.



TODAY?? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

BUT WE WERE GONNA HANG OUT--



NOT ANYMORE.

EVERYONE TRAINS DOUBLE SESSIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

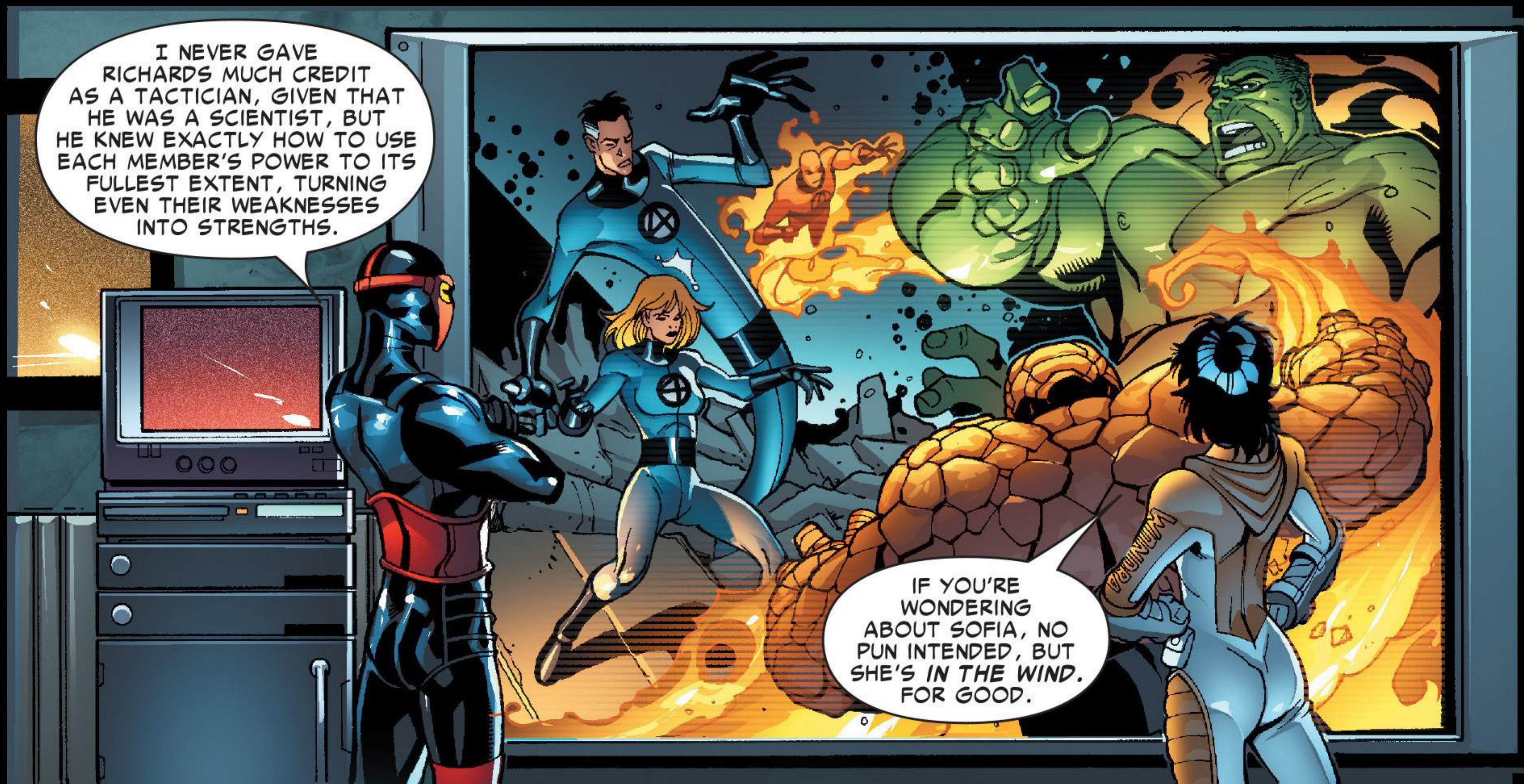
I'M GETTING SICK OF THAT DUDE.



WONDRA. FRONT AND CENTER.

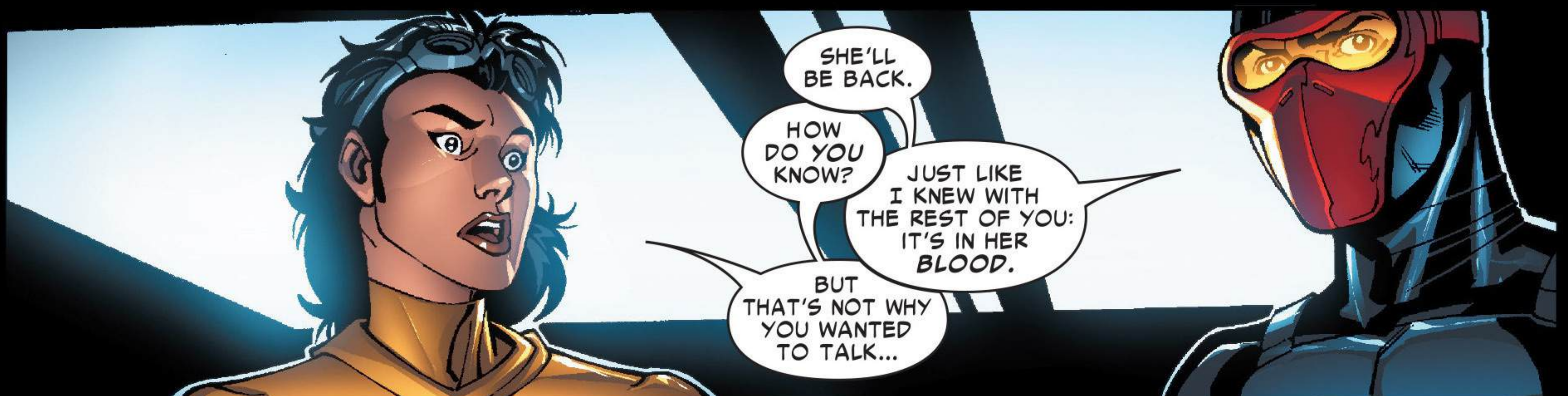


FLUID
MOTIONS...
FLAWLESS TIMING...
IMPECCABLE
TEAMWORK...



I NEVER GAVE
RICHARDS MUCH CREDIT
AS A TACTICIAN, GIVEN THAT
HE WAS A SCIENTIST, BUT
HE KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO USE
EACH MEMBER'S POWER TO ITS
FULLEST EXTENT, TURNING
EVEN THEIR WEAKNESSES
INTO STRENGTHS.

IF YOU'RE
WONDERING
ABOUT SOFIA, NO
PUN INTENDED, BUT
SHE'S IN THE WIND.
FOR GOOD.



SHE'LL
BE BACK.

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

JUST LIKE
I KNEW WITH
THE REST OF YOU:
IT'S IN HER
BLOOD.

BUT
THAT'S NOT WHY
YOU WANTED
TO TALK...



I KNOW
THEY'RE YOUR
FRIENDS, BUT YOU
NEED MORE OF AN
IRON FIST WITH
THE TEAM.

I LEFT YOU
IN CHARGE OF
TRAINING. THEY
SHOULD BE FURTHER
ALONG THAN THIS. NOT
JUST FOR THE WAR
ROOM, BUT REAL
COMBAT.



WAITAMINUTE,
COCHISE--I CAN'T DO
THIS BY *MYSELF*. YOU
BUILT THIS SQUAD, I'LL GIVE
YOU THAT, BUT YOU'RE
ALMOST *NEVER*
AROUND.

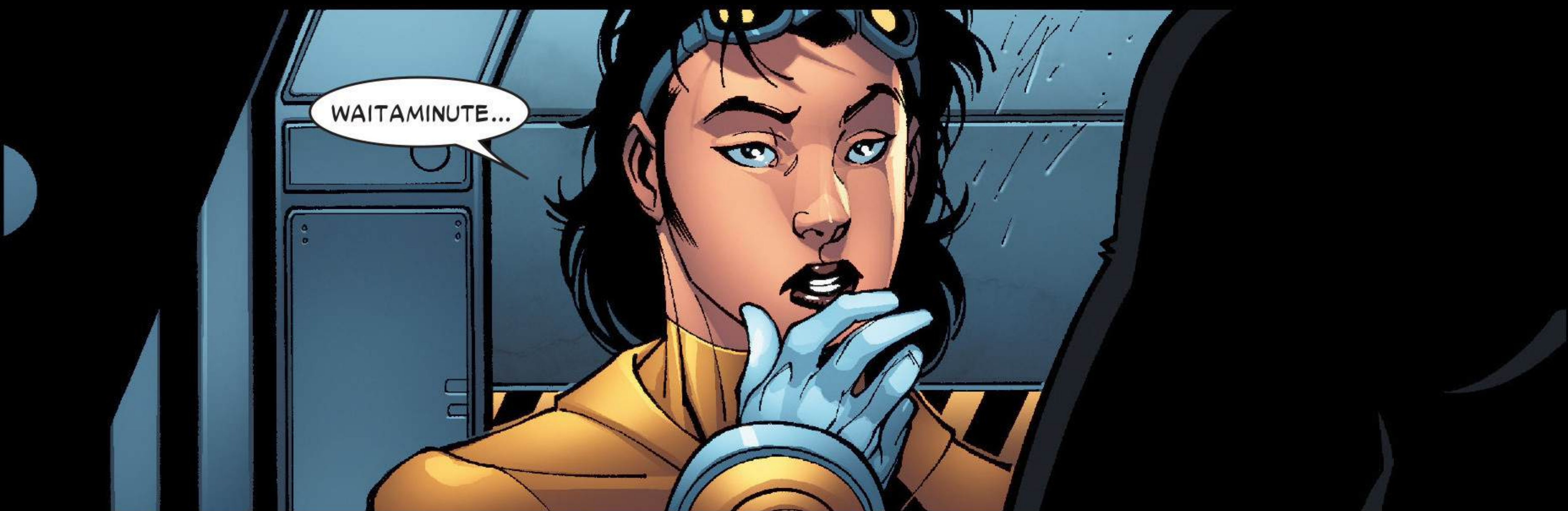
WHAT
HAVE YOU
BEEN
DOING?



LOOK. YOU
WANT US TO
TRUST YOU, BUT
TO BE QUITE
HONEST,
THRASH...

...WE DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.

ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO
BELIEVE YOU
SURVIVED THAT
BLAST IN--



WAITAMINUTE...



ARE
YOU--

--WHO I
THINK YOU
ARE?





--HAS TURNED OUT BADLY FOR THE NEW INITIATIVE HEROES. A CALL HAS GONE OUT TO THE AVENGERS TO QUELL THE SITUATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT AS OF YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE!

FUGEDDABOUTIT. THEY COME DOWN HERE, WE'LL PELT 'EM WIT A COUPLE O' AL'S CANNOLIS.

THEY HIT LIKE THOR'S HAMMER, AIN'T THAT RIGHT, AL?

BOTH O'YOUSE MOTHERS.

CHEESE AND RICE! THAT'S RIGHT DOWN THE STREET!



HERE YOU GO, GUYS...ONE WESTERN OMELET WITH WHEAT TOAST AND BACON...

...AND A SHORT STACK OF JOHNNYCAKES WITH LINKS AND TWO OVER EASY.

YOU GUYS NEED ANYTHING ELSE, YOU JUST LET ME KNOW.



WHAT AM I, SEEIN' THINGS OVA' HERE?

IS THIS THE SAME SOFIA WHO USE TA RUN LATE AND BREAK ALL MY DISHES?

WHAT, I CAN'T DO MY JOB LIKE THE "FIRST CLASS" WAITRESS THAT I AM?

AND I WANT A RAISE TOO.



YOU TELL 'IM, KID.

NOW TELL 'IM TA CHANGE THE MENU ONCE OR TWICE A DECADE. HE'S BEEN MAKIN' THE SAME SLOP SINCE THE GIANTS WON THE SUPER BOWL.

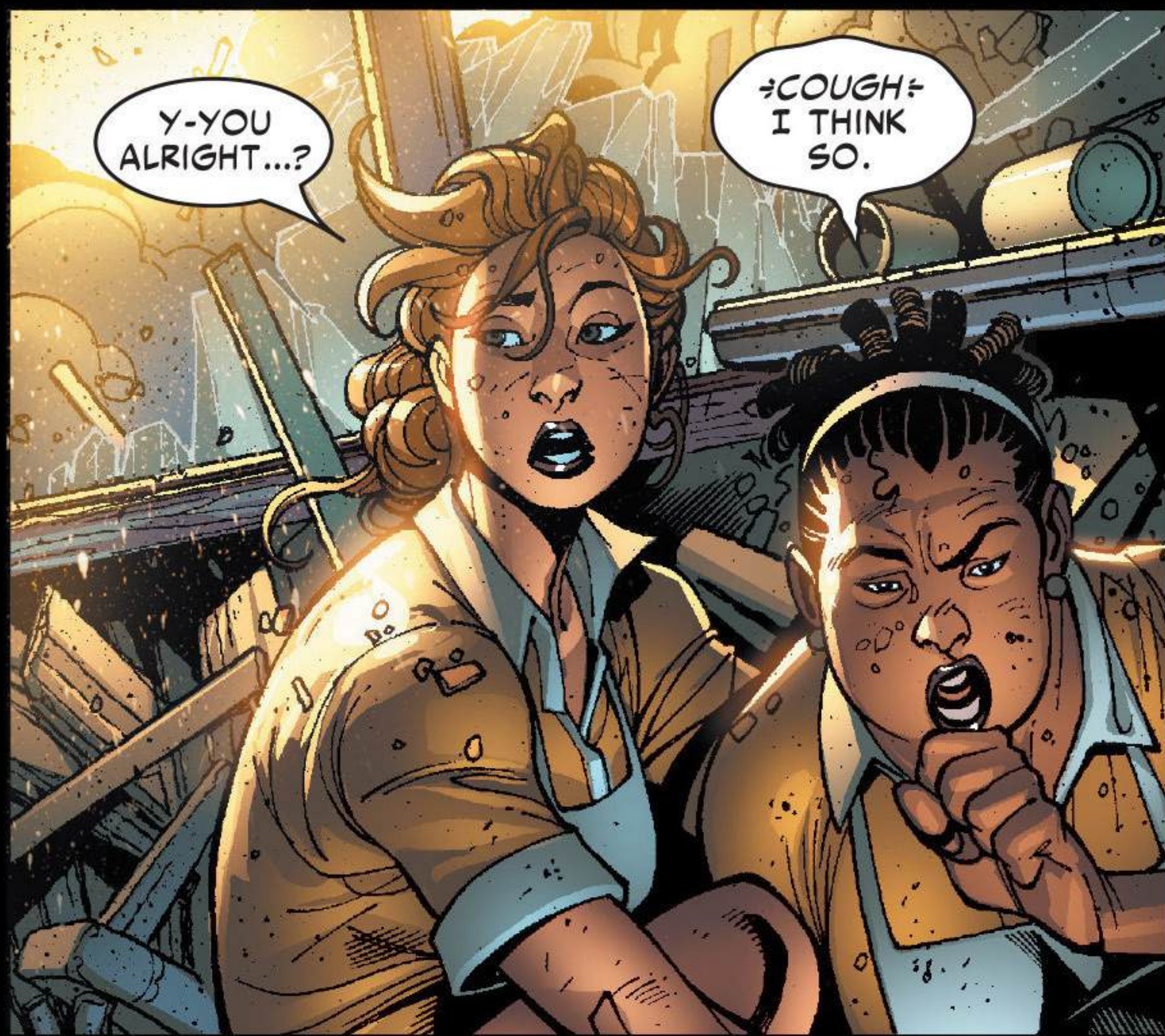
THIRTEEN UP!



CHILD, WHAT DONE GOT INTO YOU?

BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT LATELY. BUT...I THINK I'VE GOT IT COVERED.

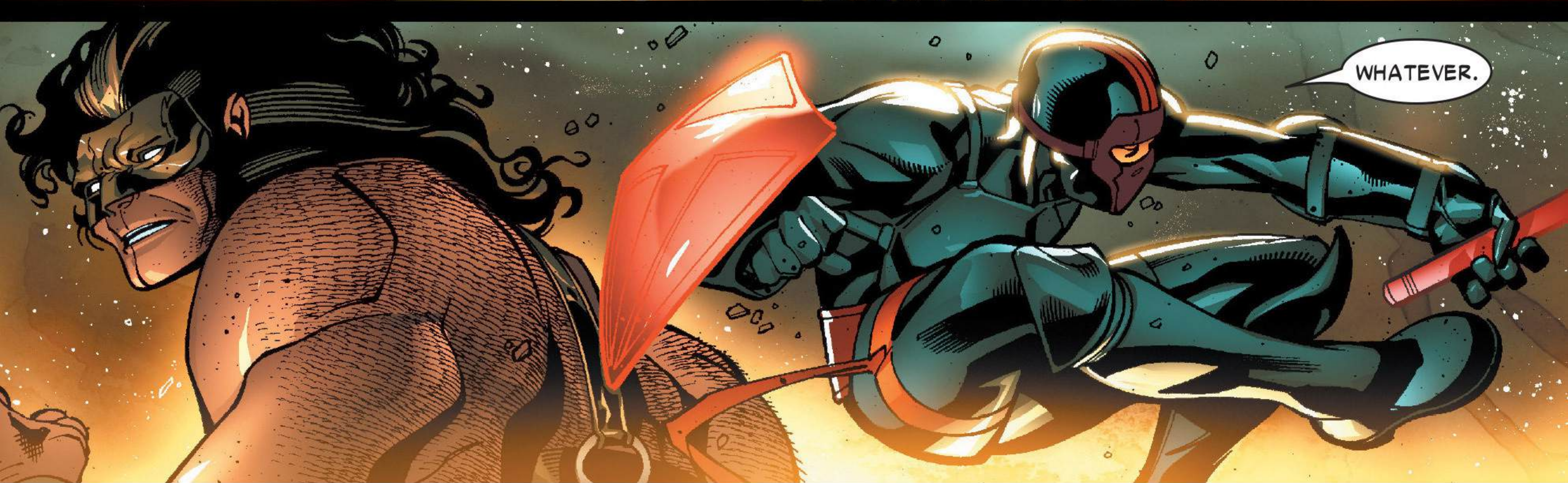
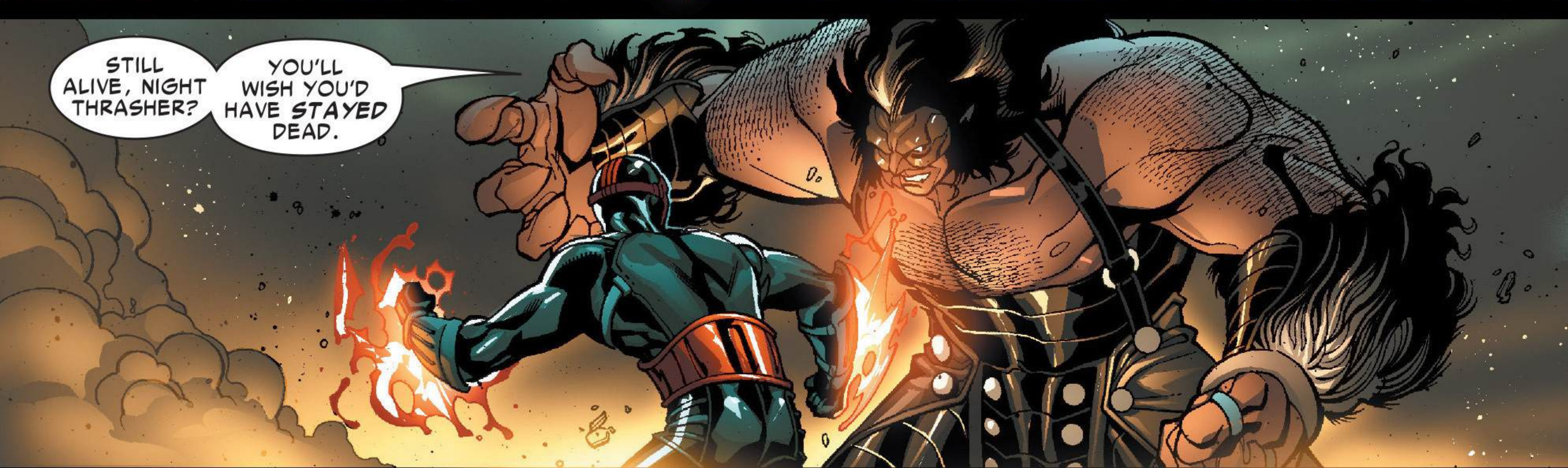
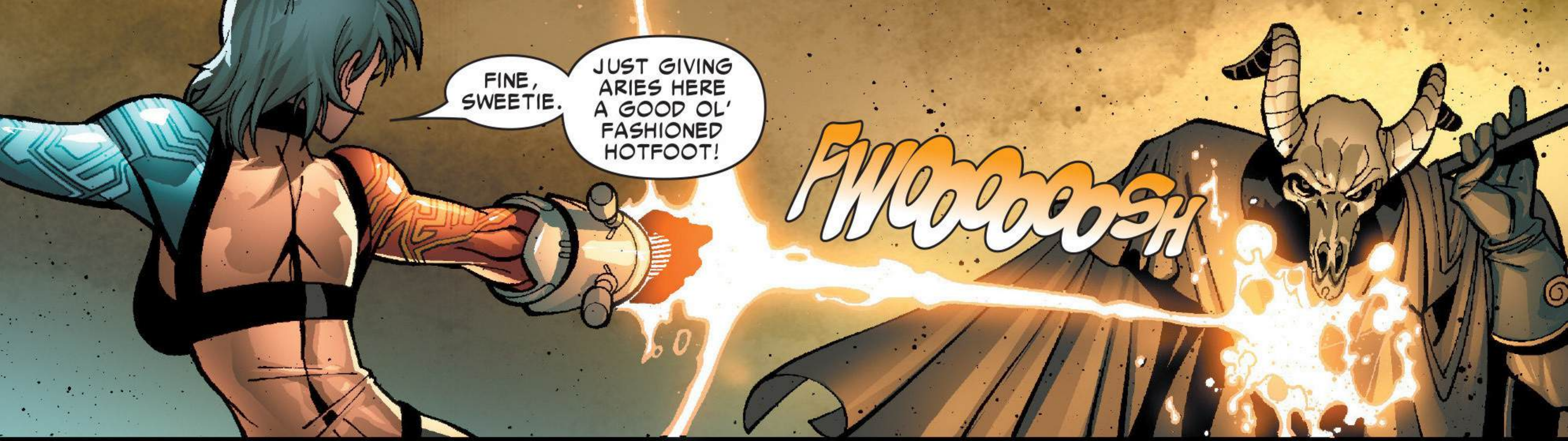


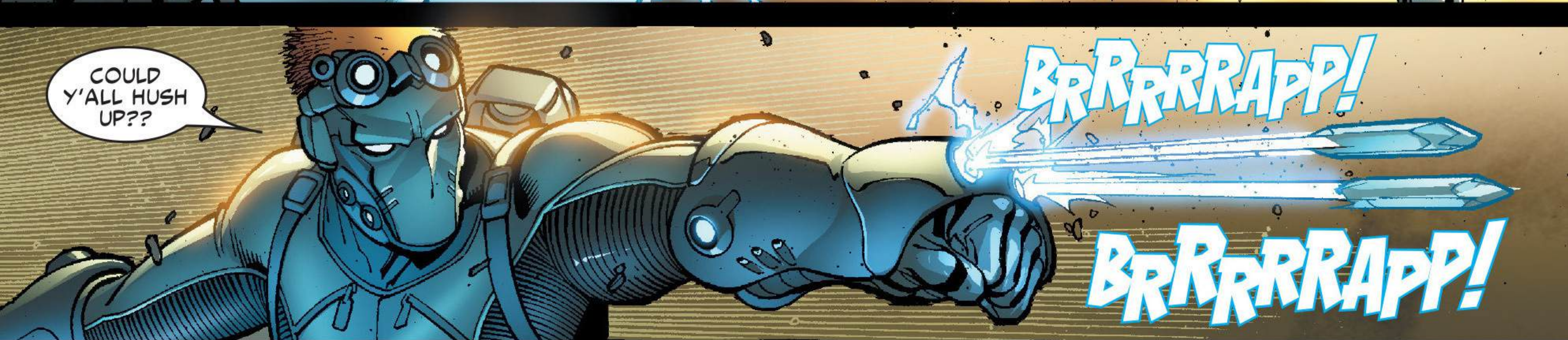
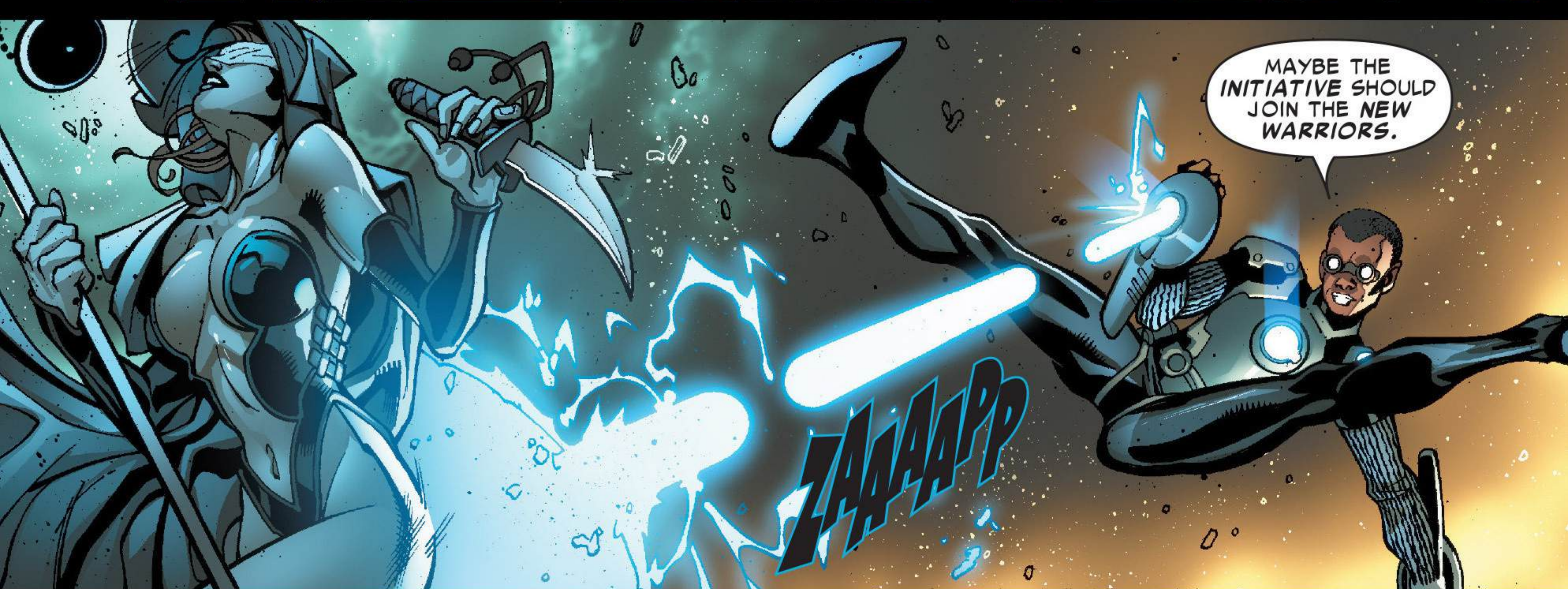
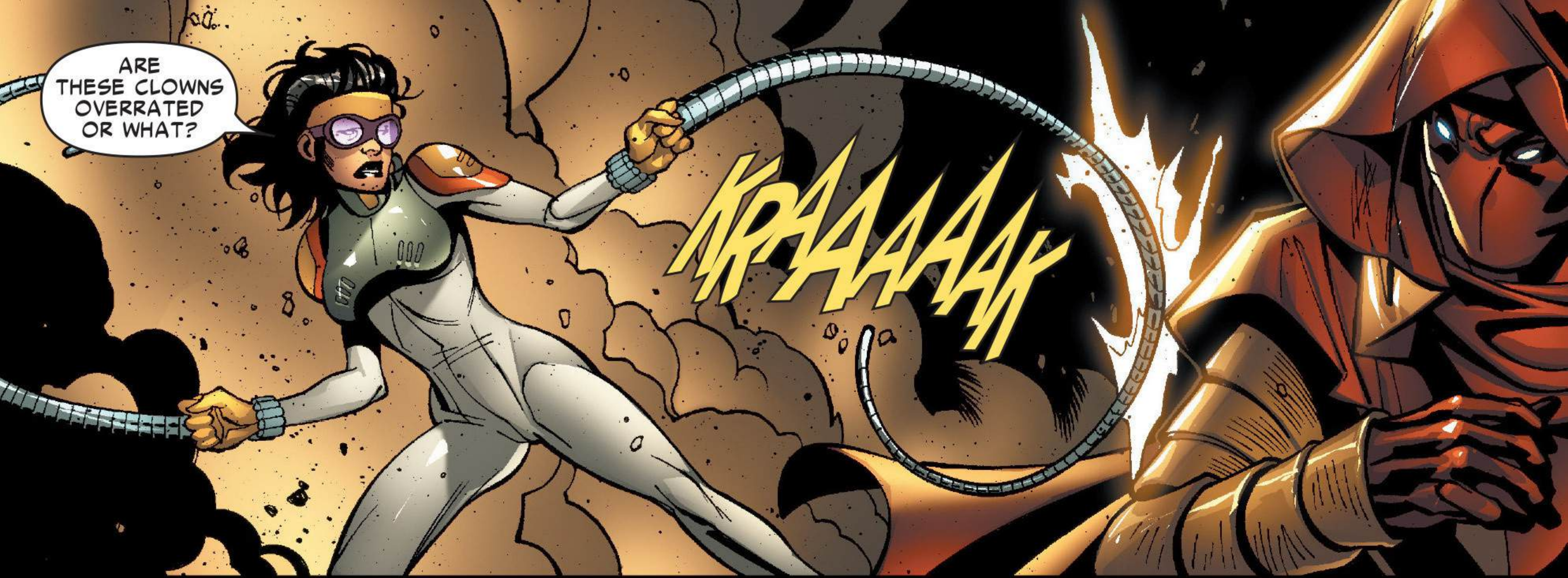


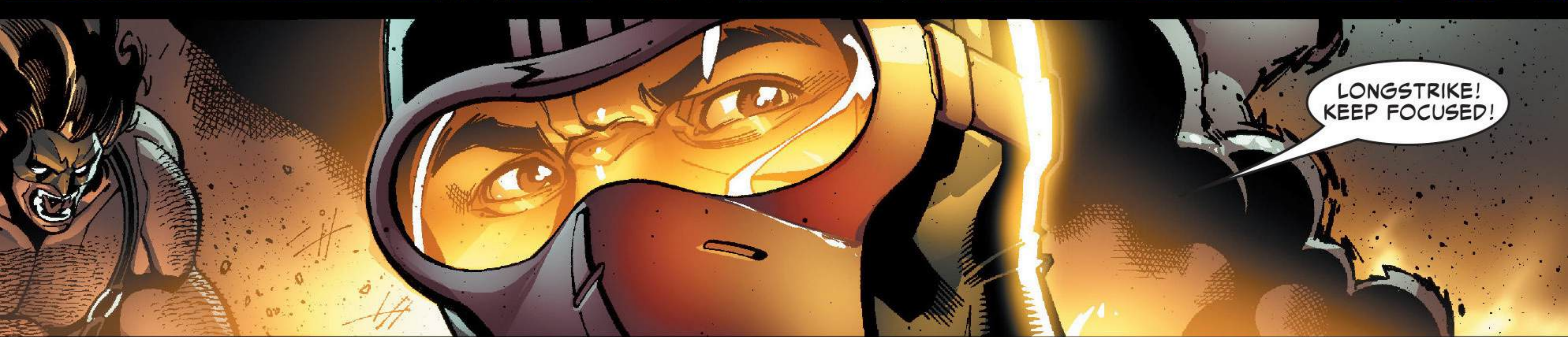
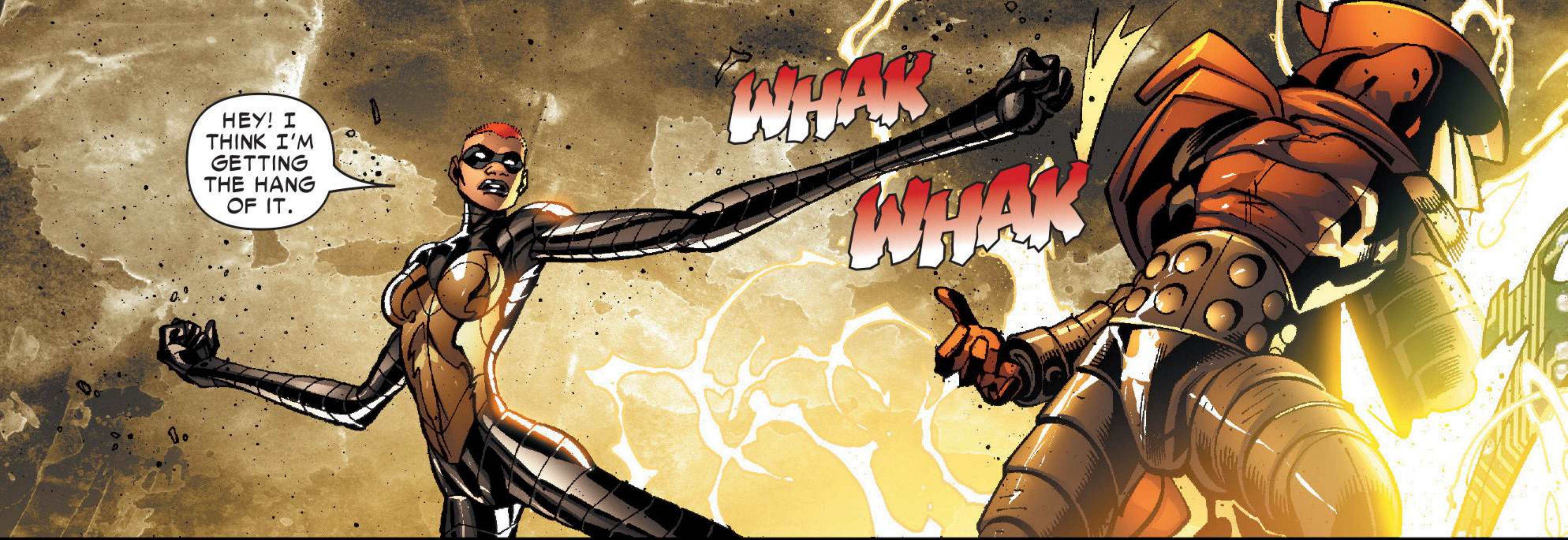


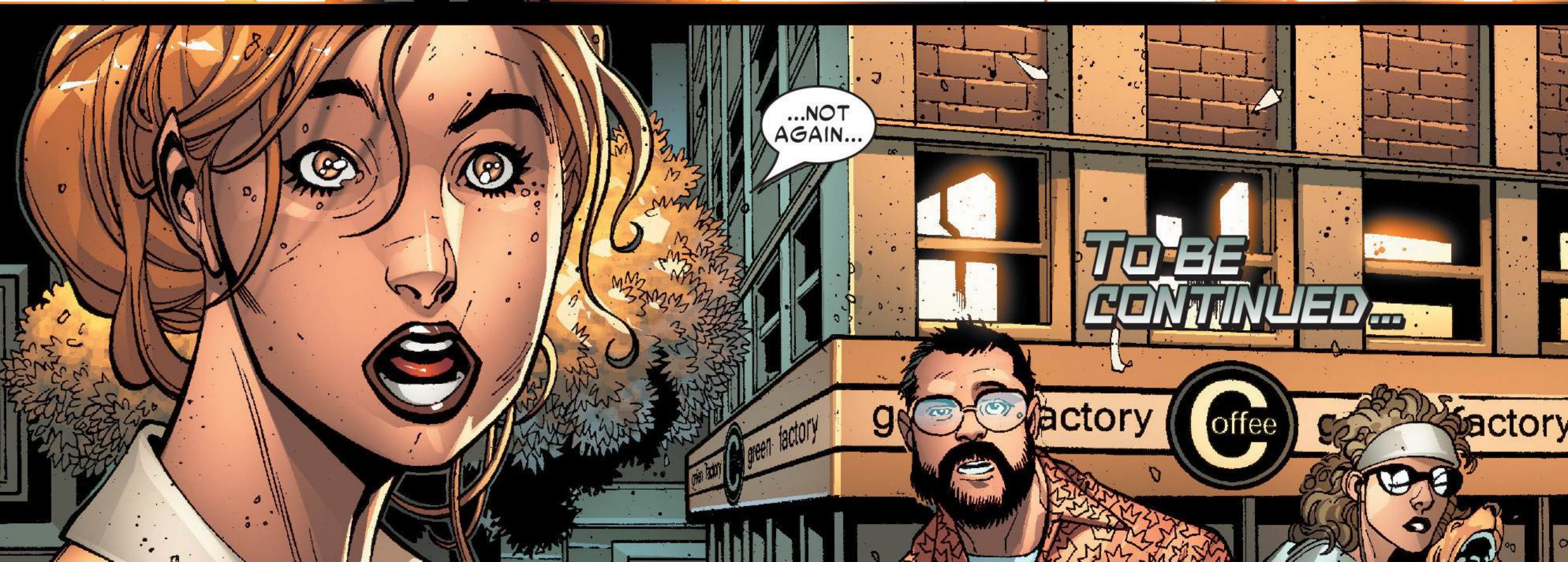
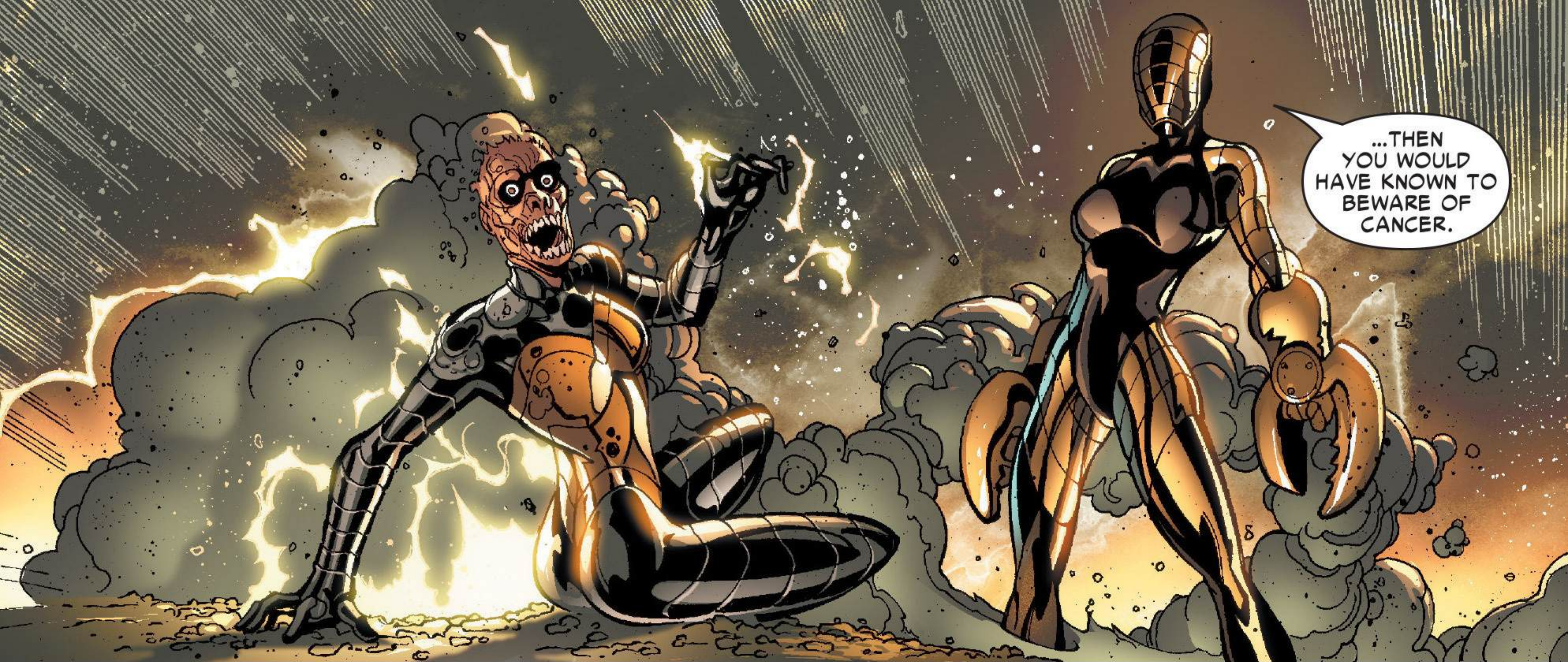












MARVEL

5

GREVIOUX
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA

THE INITIATIVE™

NEW WARRIORS®



PREVIOUSLY...

SOMEONE IS GIFT-WRAPPING SUPER-VILLAINS FOR THE POLICE. SOMEONE IS DEFACING SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION POSTERS. SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE NYPD COSTUMED DIVISION STUMPED. AND THE ONLY CLUE TO THEIR IDENTITIES? A SINGLE PHRASE, SPRAY-PAINTED ON THE FLOOR OF AN ALLEY: THE NEW WARRIORS WERE HERE.

IN THE WAKE OF M-DAY, NEW X-MAN SOFIA MANTEGA, A.K.A. WIND DANCER, WAS STRIPPED OF HER MUTANT POWERS. HOPING TO CARVE OUT A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF, SOFIA LEFT THE X-MEN BEHIND, AND FOUND HERSELF A JOB AS A WAITRESS IN NEW YORK CITY. HOWEVER, AS SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION BECOMES LAW, SHE FEELS HER FORMER LIFE BECKONING TO HER.

AS THE NEW WARRIORS' POPULARITY SURGES, THE TEAM'S ENIGMATIC LEADER, NIGHT THRASHER, EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO SOFIA, ASKING HER TO JOIN THEIR CAUSE. THOUGH SHE REFUSES HIS OFFER, SOFIA CAN'T HELP BUT IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO RETURN TO HER LIFE AS A SUPER HERO.

WHEN THE ALL-NEW ZODIAC TRAMPLES MEMBERS OF THE INITIATIVE IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK, THE NEW WARRIORS ARRIVE TO QUELL THE CONFLICT. SOFIA WATCHES AS THEY REPEL THE ZODIAC AND SAVE INITIATIVE TRAINEES AND CITIZENS ALIKE. HOWEVER, WHEN THE TIDE SUDDENLY TURNS AGAINST THEM, THE NEW WARRIORS FIND THEMSELVES IN DIRE STRAITS...AND ONE OF THEIR OWN A CASUALTY OF THE FRAY.



KEVIN GREVIOUX
WRITER

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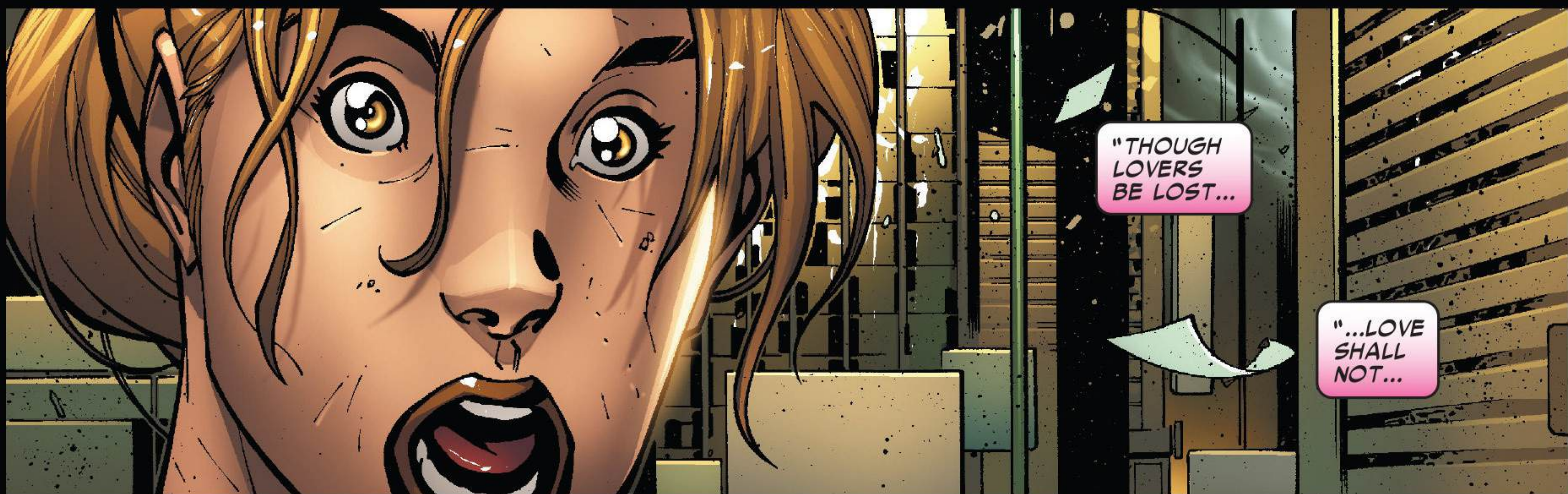
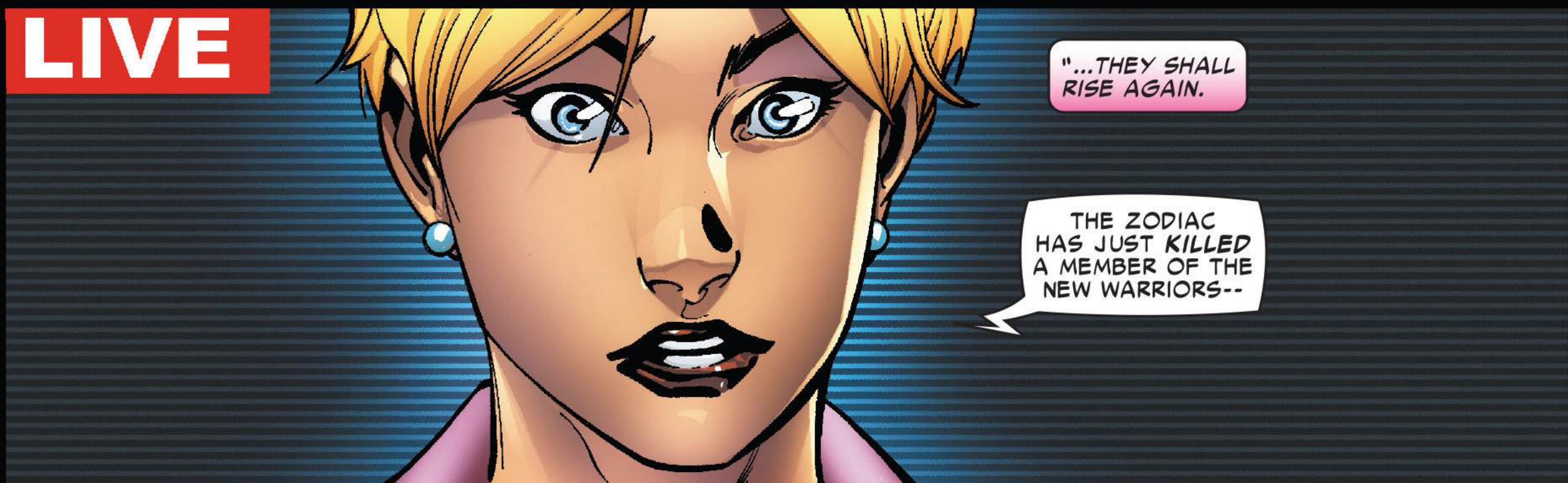
ANTHONY DIAL
PRODUCTION

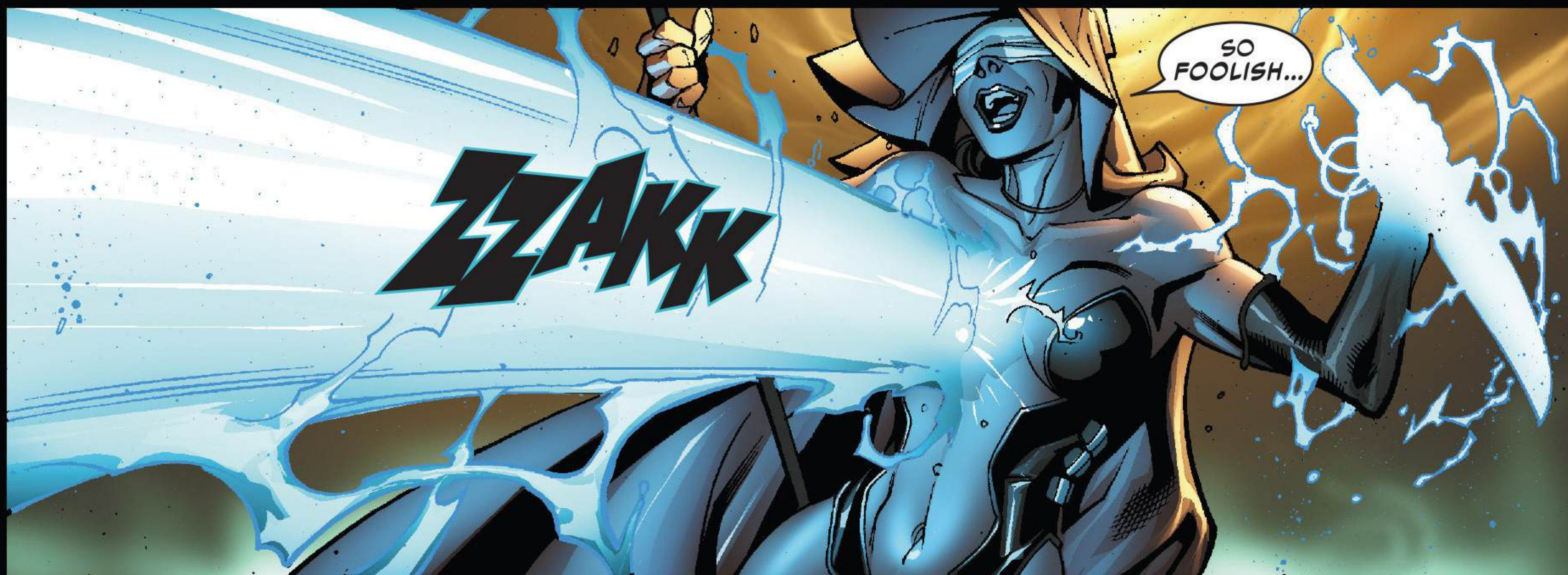
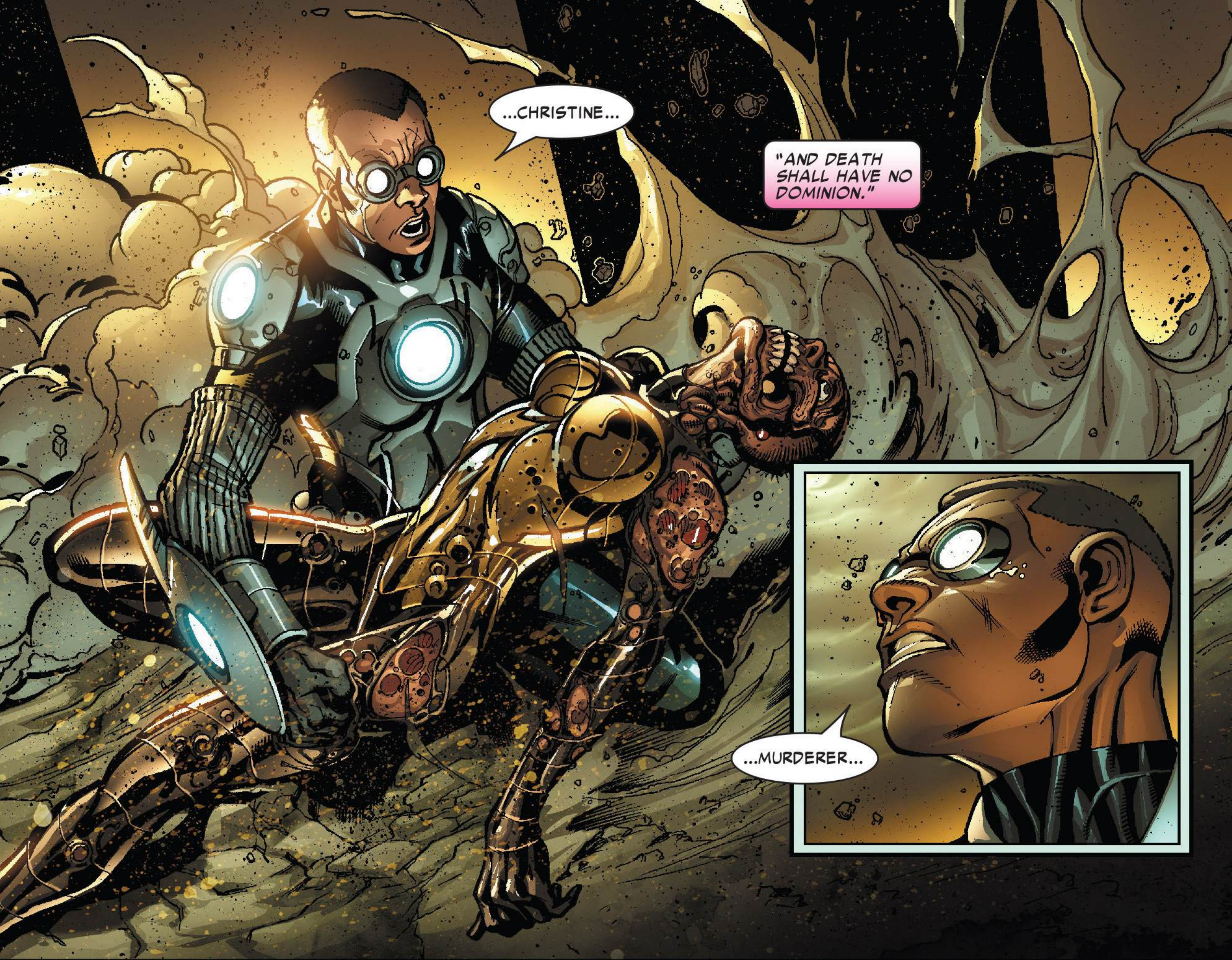
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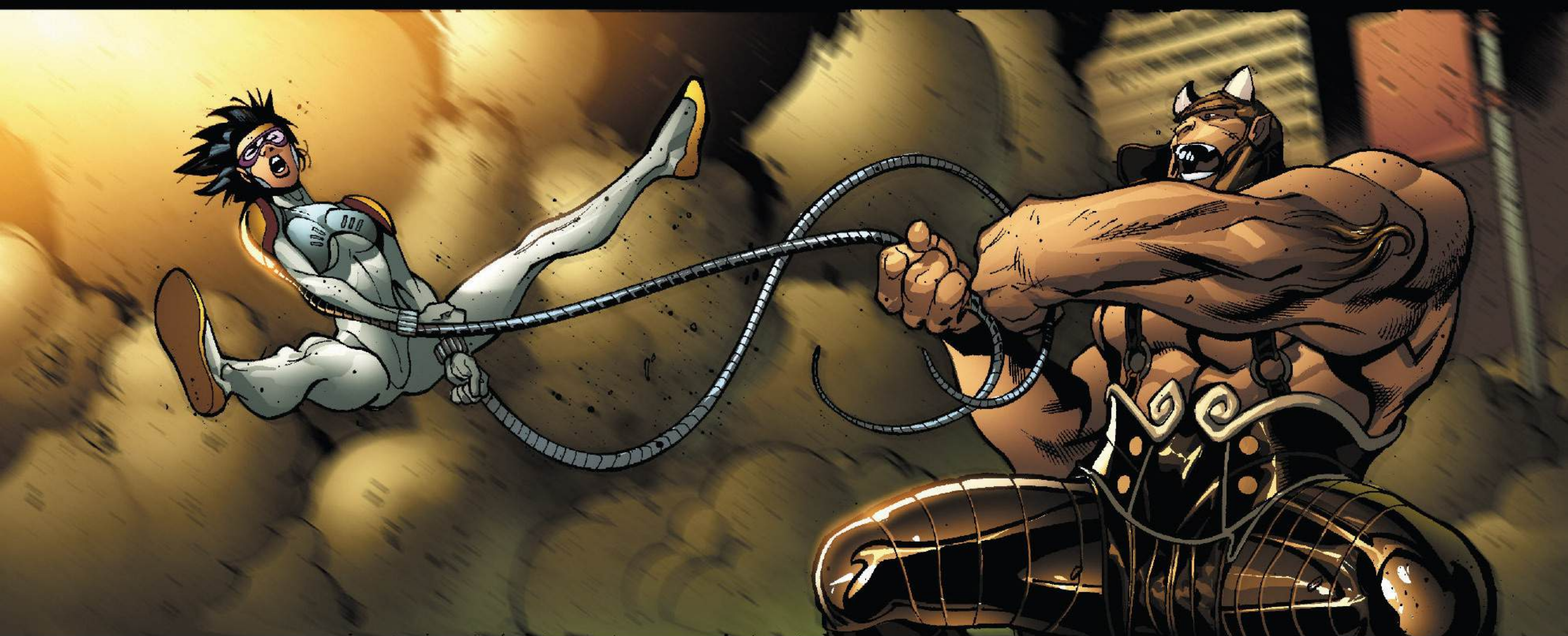
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JOE QUESADA
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DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER











THIS IS
GETTIN'
BAD...

WE JUST
GOT A DISPATCH.
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S ON
THE WAY!

R. NELSON



THEY KILLED
HER--THEY
KILLED MY
SISTER--

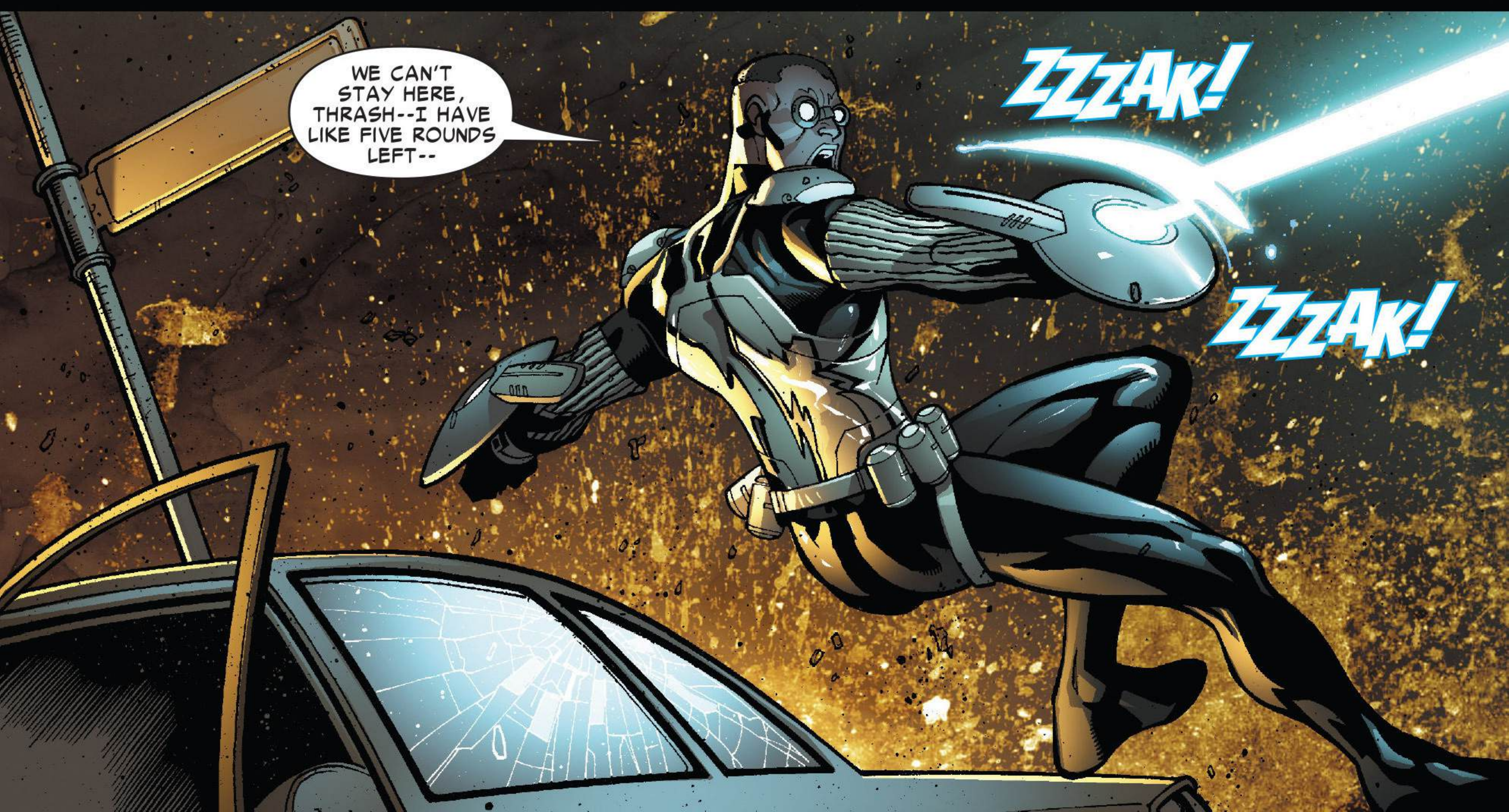
SHUT UP,
PHASER, AND
PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER. I'M
THINKING.

EVERYONE:
STATUS--



THEY
GOT US
PINNED.

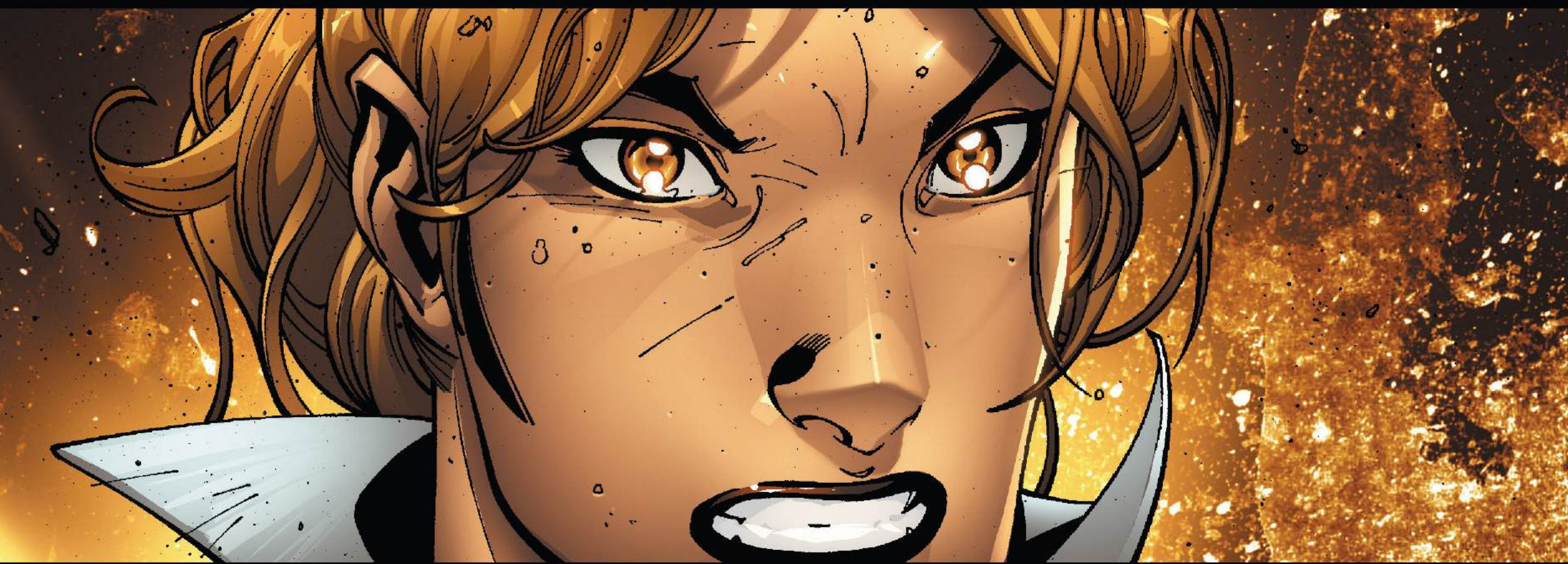
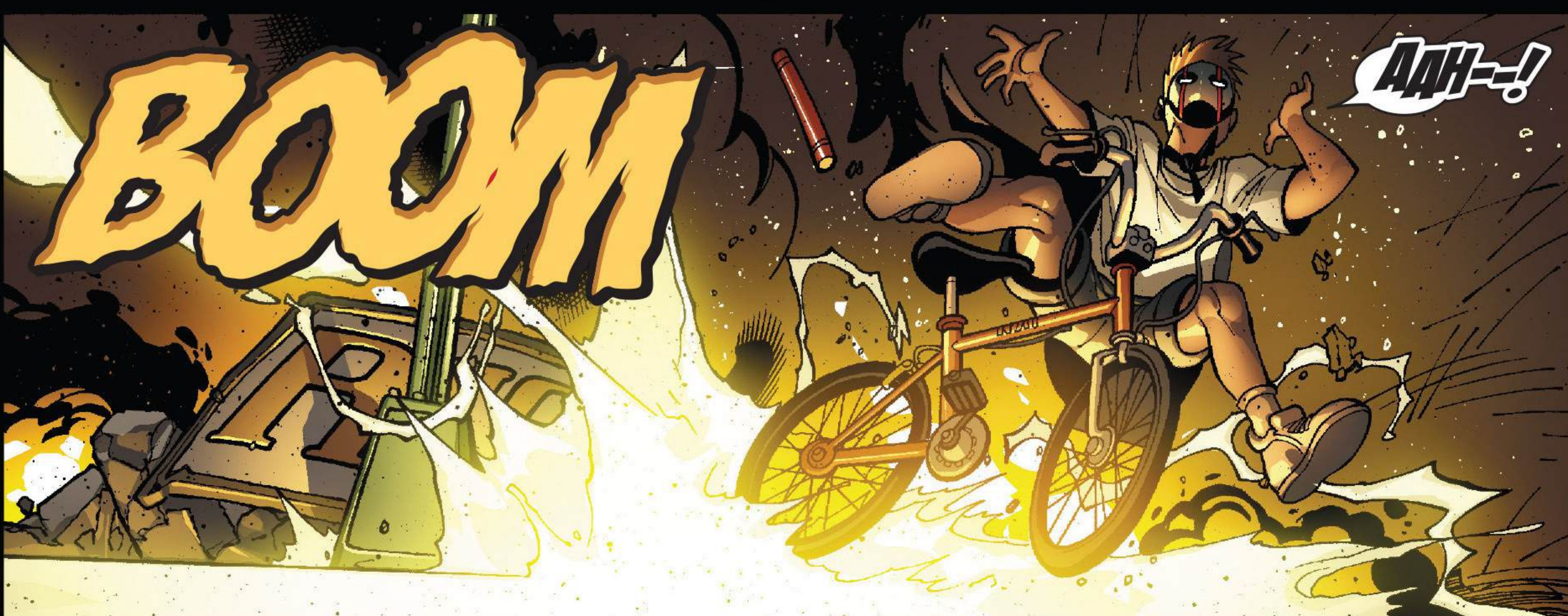
I'M
CHANGING
BATTERIES--I
NEED A LITTLE
TIME.

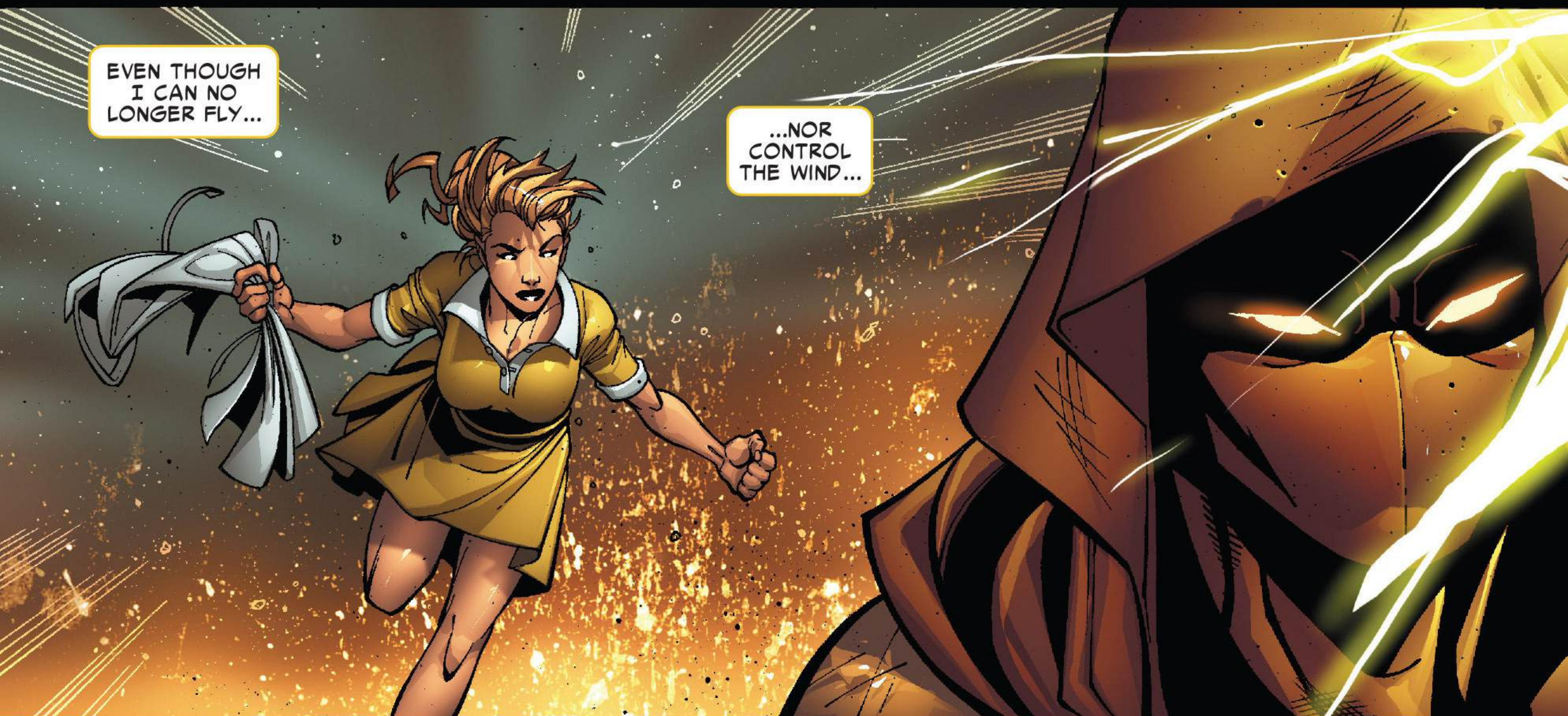


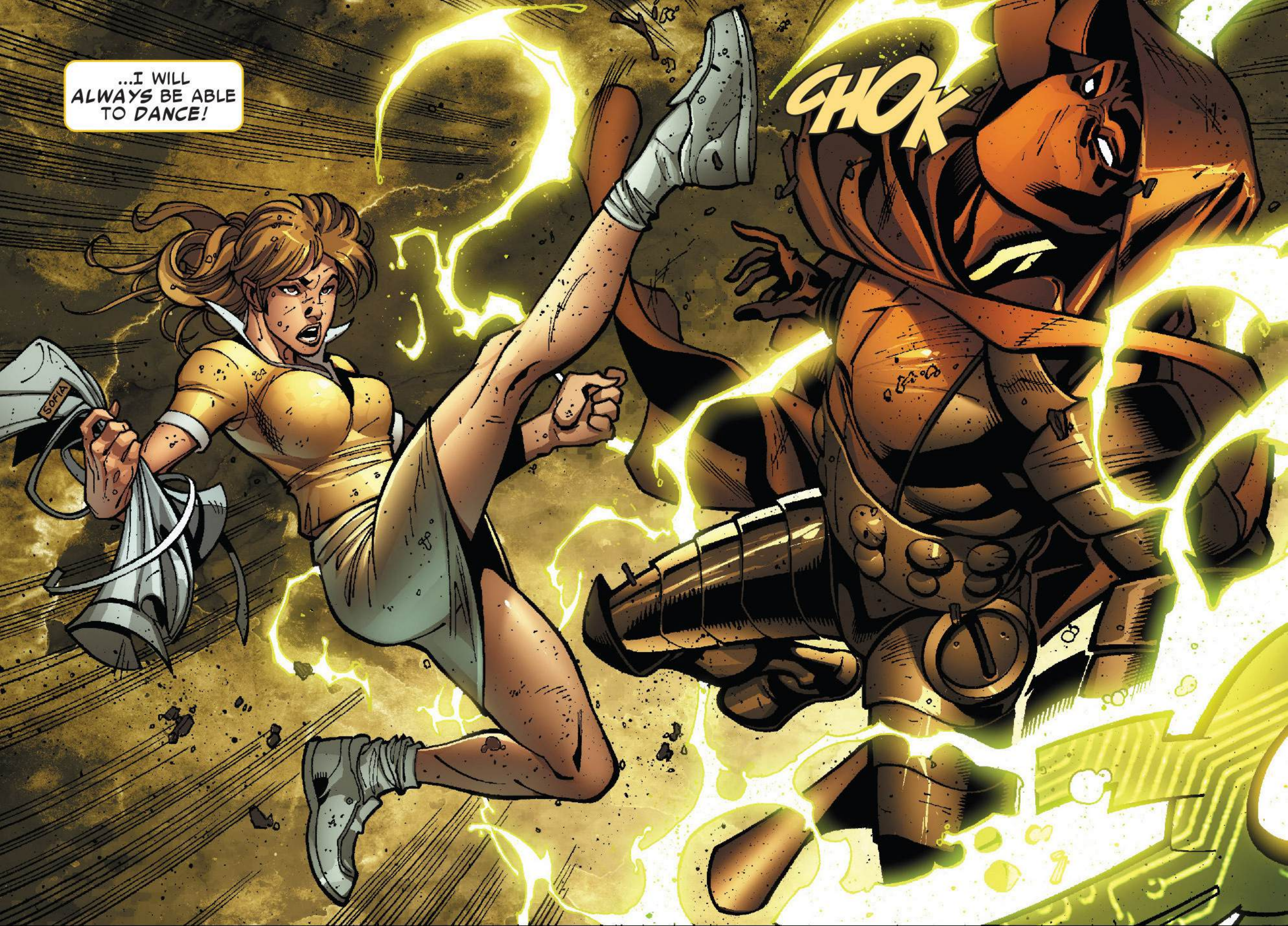
WE CAN'T
STAY HERE,
THRASH--I HAVE
LIKE FIVE ROUNDS
LEFT--

ZZZAK!

ZZZAK!







...I WILL
ALWAYS BE ABLE
TO DANCE!

CHOK



DAMN
YOU--



KEEP
THAT CAMERA
ON HER!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE MY EYES!
A WAITRESS HAS
JUST ATTACKED
SCORPIO!



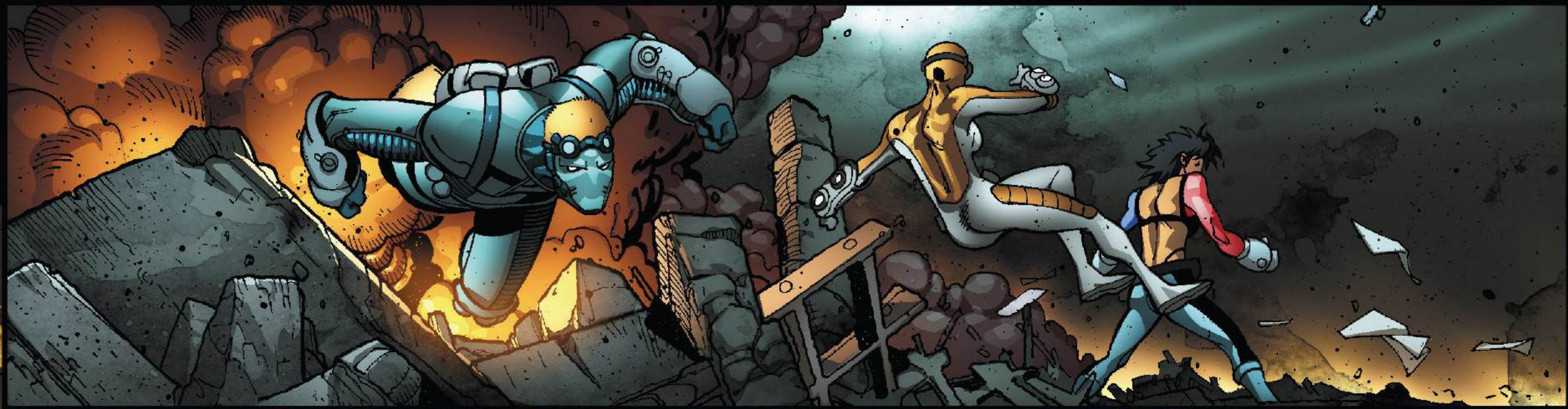
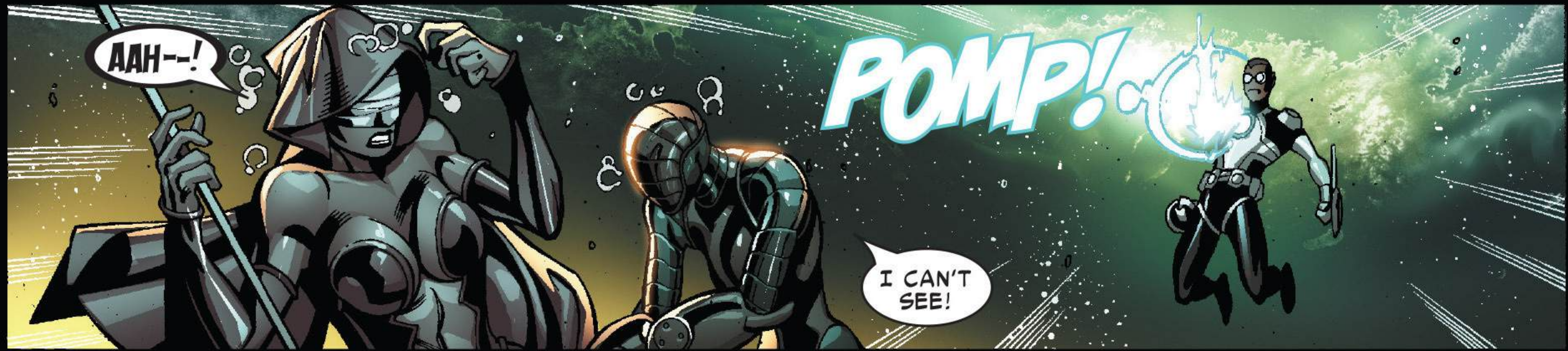
SCORPIO!
WATCH IT!

AAH--!

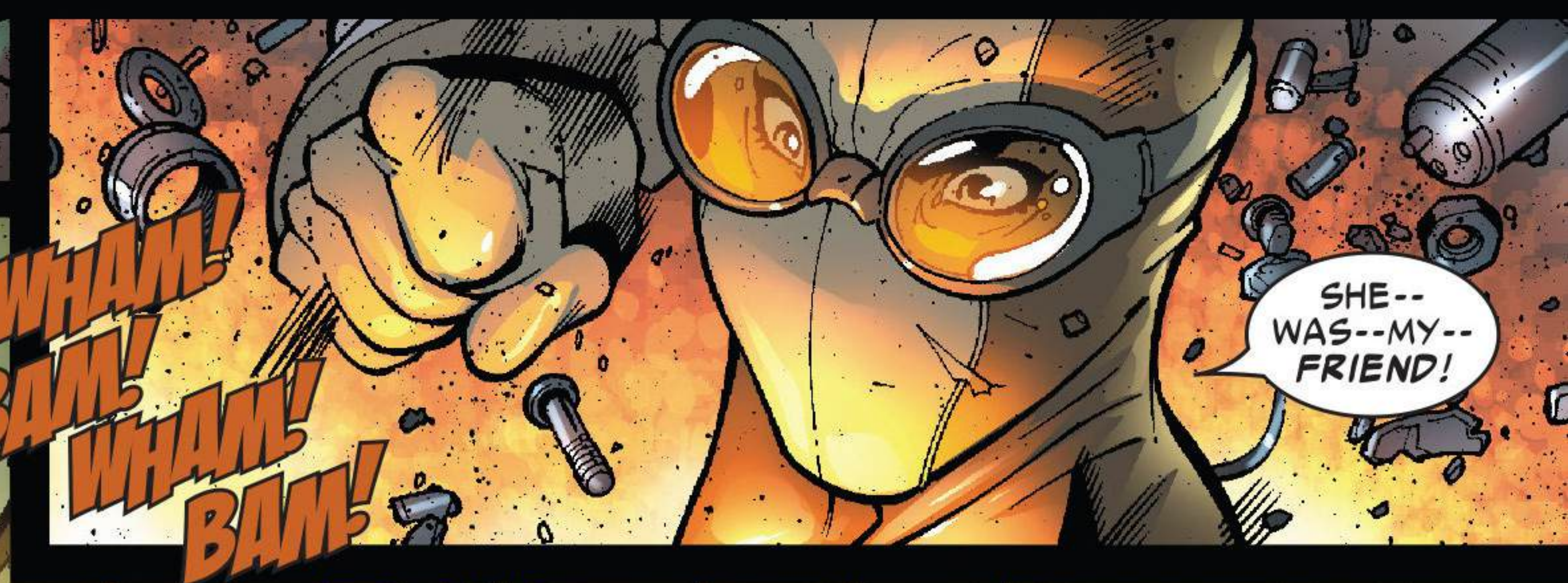
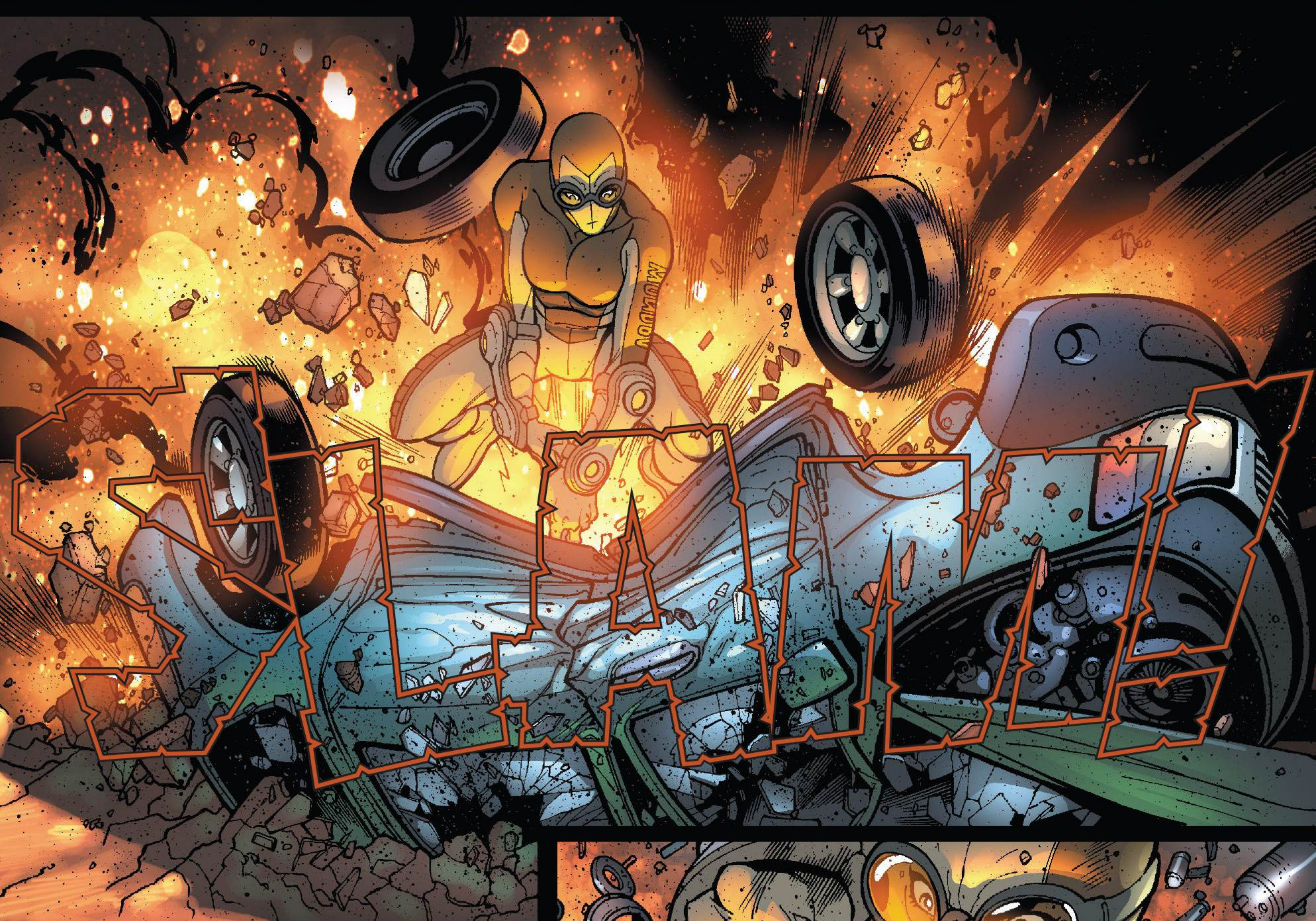


QUICK!
SOFIA BOUGHT
US SOME TIME--
EVERYONE: RED
DOG 44!

GO!
GO!









YOU'RE
OKAY...IT'S NOT
THAT BAD...YOU'RE
OKAY...

NO. SHE
SAVED OUR
LIVES. WE
DON'T LEAVE
SOLDIERS
BEHIND.

C'MON,
THRASH--WE
GOTTA JET
BEFORE S.H.I.E.L.D.
GETS HERE!

IT'S
OKAY...



WE'LL TAKE
CARE OF HER.
YOU KIDS BOLT
BEFORE THE FEDS
ARRIVE.

WE CAN'T
HELP HER, MATE.
LOOK AT HER--SHE'S
BETTER OFF WITH THE
PARAMEDICS.

BUT--

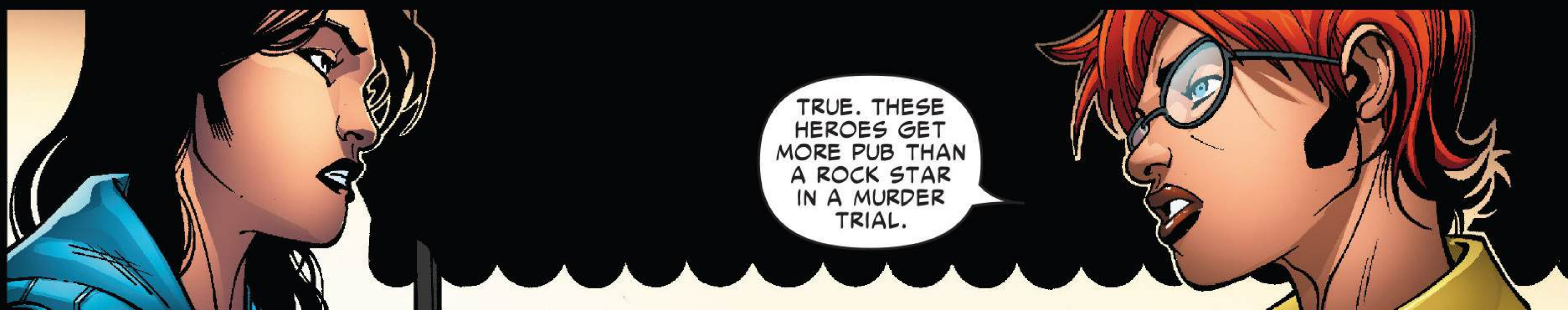


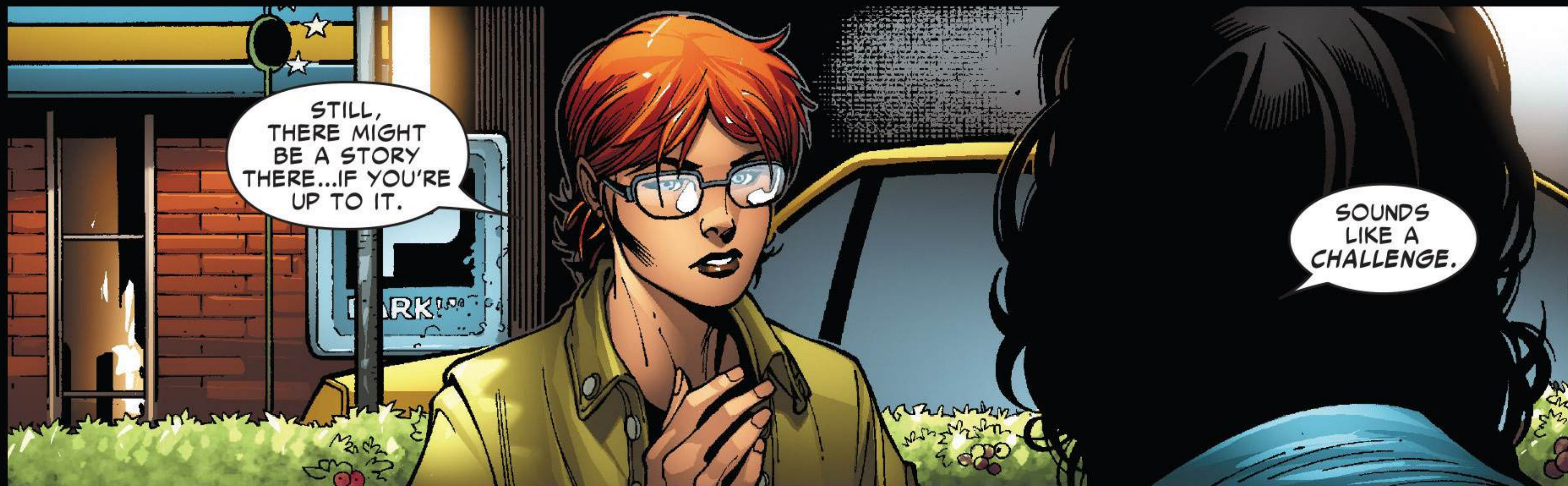
YOU TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HER.

WE'LL
DO OUR
BEST.



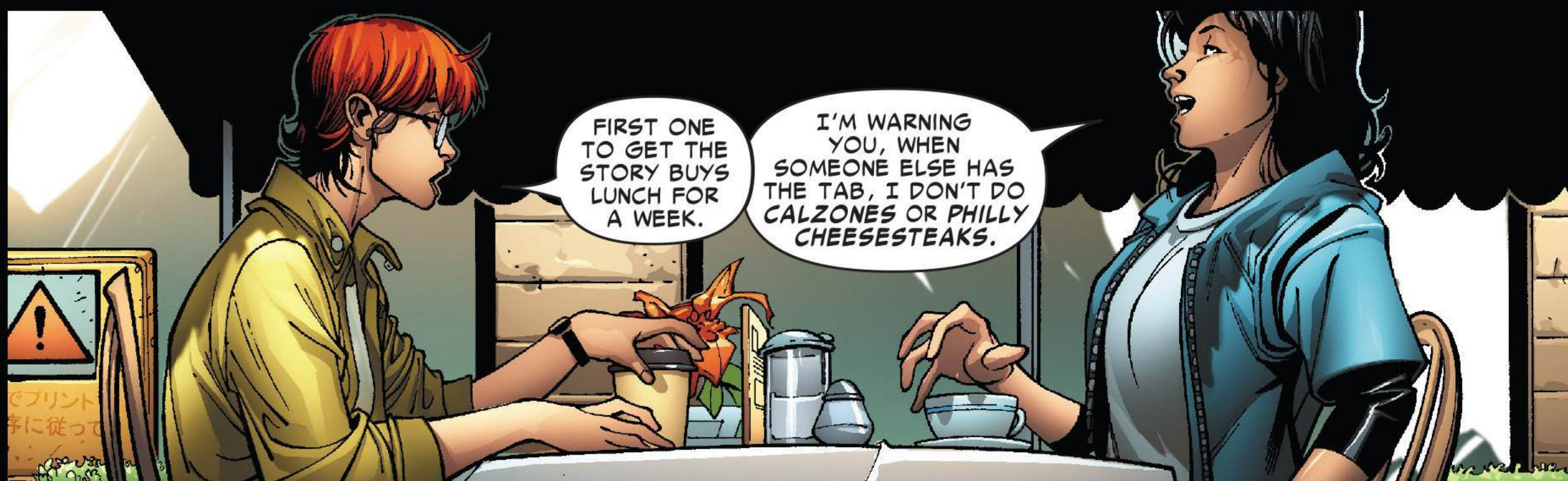






STILL, THERE MIGHT BE A STORY THERE...IF YOU'RE UP TO IT.

SOUNDS LIKE A CHALLENGE.



FIRST ONE TO GET THE STORY BUYS LUNCH FOR A WEEK.

I'M WARNING YOU, WHEN SOMEONE ELSE HAS THE TAB, I DON'T DO CALZONES OR PHILLY CHEESESTEAKS.



I DON'T PLAN ON LOSING.

YOU'RE ON.

YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S SOMETHING THERE, HUH?

THINK ABOUT IT, SALLY...I MEAN, WHAT MAKES A GROUP OF KIDS DEFY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING ALL UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY AND THEN TAKE THE NAME OF THE GROUP WHO CAUSED THE LAW IN THE FIRST PLACE?



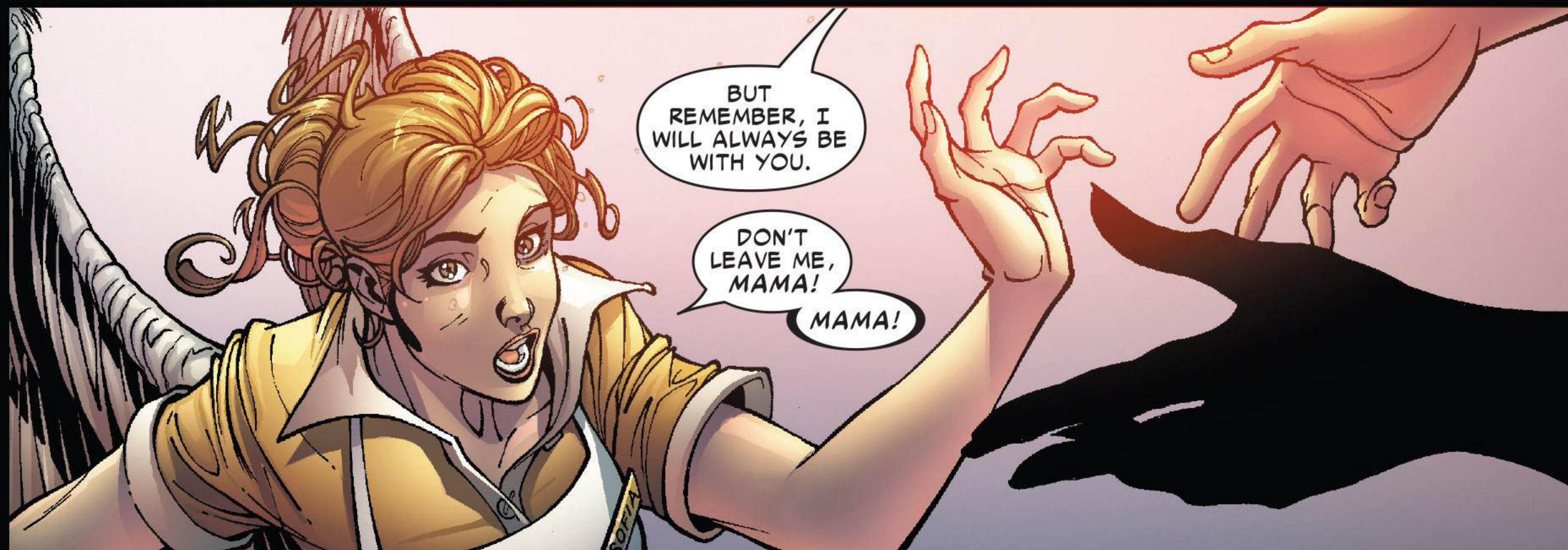
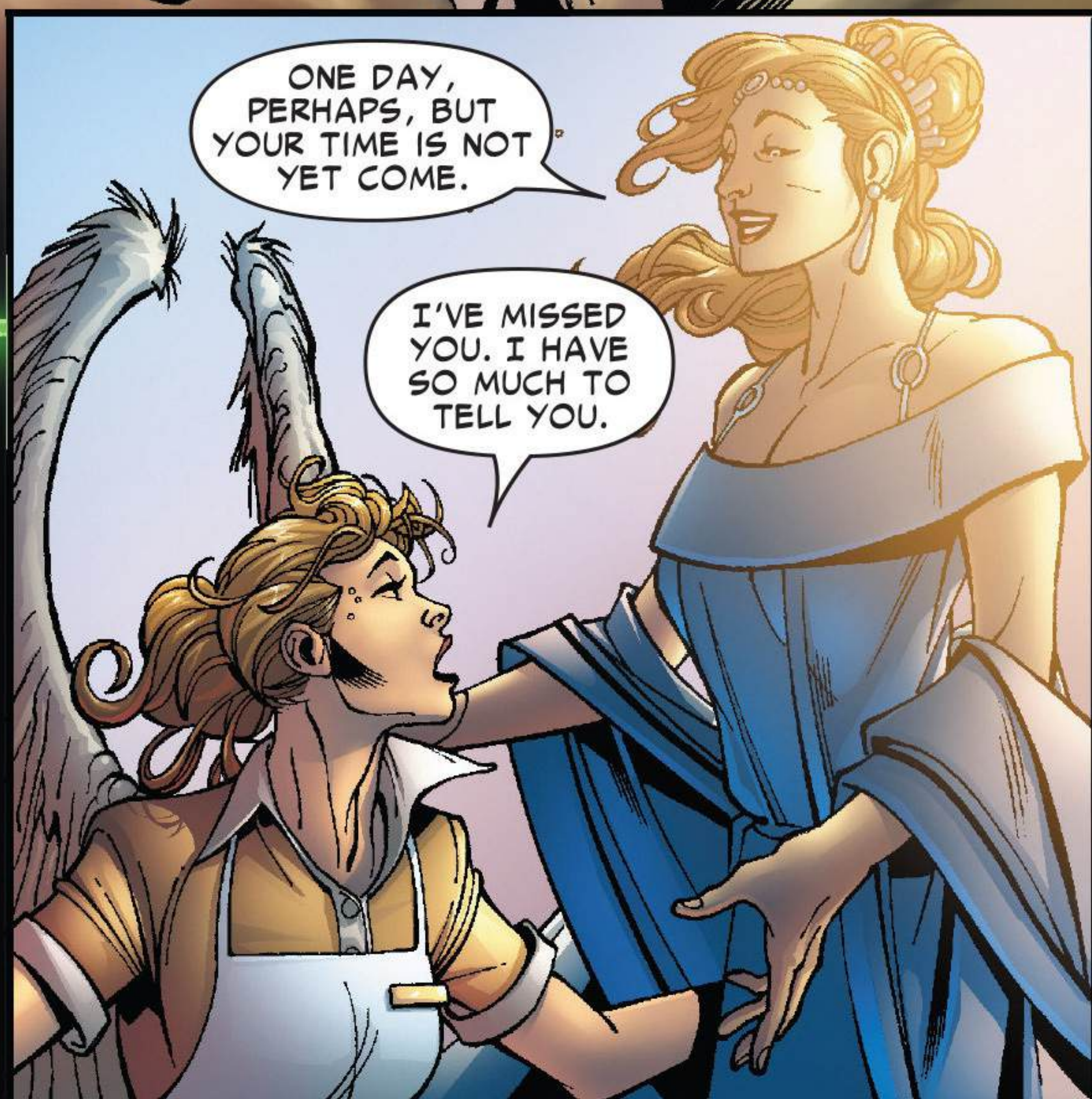
DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

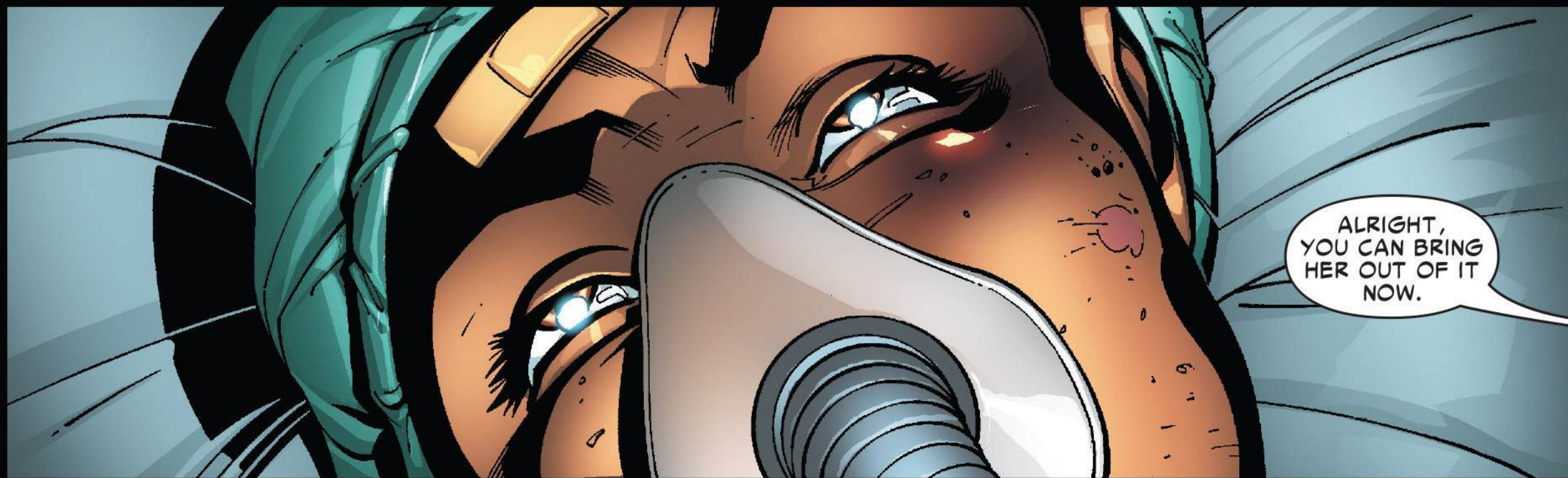
MAYBE THERE'S SOMEBODY BEHIND THEM.



WHERE YOU GOING?

TO WORK UP AN APPETITE.







THIS IS A P.R. NIGHTMARE FOR YOU AND YOUR WHOLE PRECIOUS INITIATIVE. THEY GOT THEIR HEADS HANDED TO THEM ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. THIS WHOLE PROGRAM IS A COMPLETE WASHOUT.



JUST CALM DOWN AND THINK A MINUTE, KOONING. IF YOU CALL FOR THEIR HEADS AFTER THE WHOLE WORLD SAW WHAT THEY DID AGAINST THE ZODIAC, IT'S GOING TO BE THE GOVERNMENT THAT LOOKS LIKE THE BAD GUYS. I CAN GUARANTEE YOU THAT.

AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT? YOU'VE JUST MADE OUR JOB TEN TIMES MORE DIFFICULT.



OR, WE COULD TURN IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

HOW?

I DIDN'T BECOME A BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST BY BEING A FOOL. A SITUATION THIS DELICATE TAKES TIME.



I'M GONNA GIVE YOU ONE MORE SHOT, STARK. BUT IF YOU'RE WRONG--



I'M NOT, MR. SECRETARY.



TRUST ME ON THIS.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

YOU DO REALIZE THAT I AM UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO CONCEDE TO THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.

HIDING BEHIND DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY, EH? GUILTY CONSCIENCE, "YOUR HIGHNESS"?

MERELY WIELDING THE POWER BEFITTING MY STATION.

LIKE I SAID.

DETECTIVES. PLEASE, STATE YOUR BUSINESS AND BE ON YOUR WAY.

YOU'RE AWARE OF A TEAM OF SUPERHUMANS KNOWN AS THE NEW WARRIORS?

PAST OR PRESENT?

FUNNY.

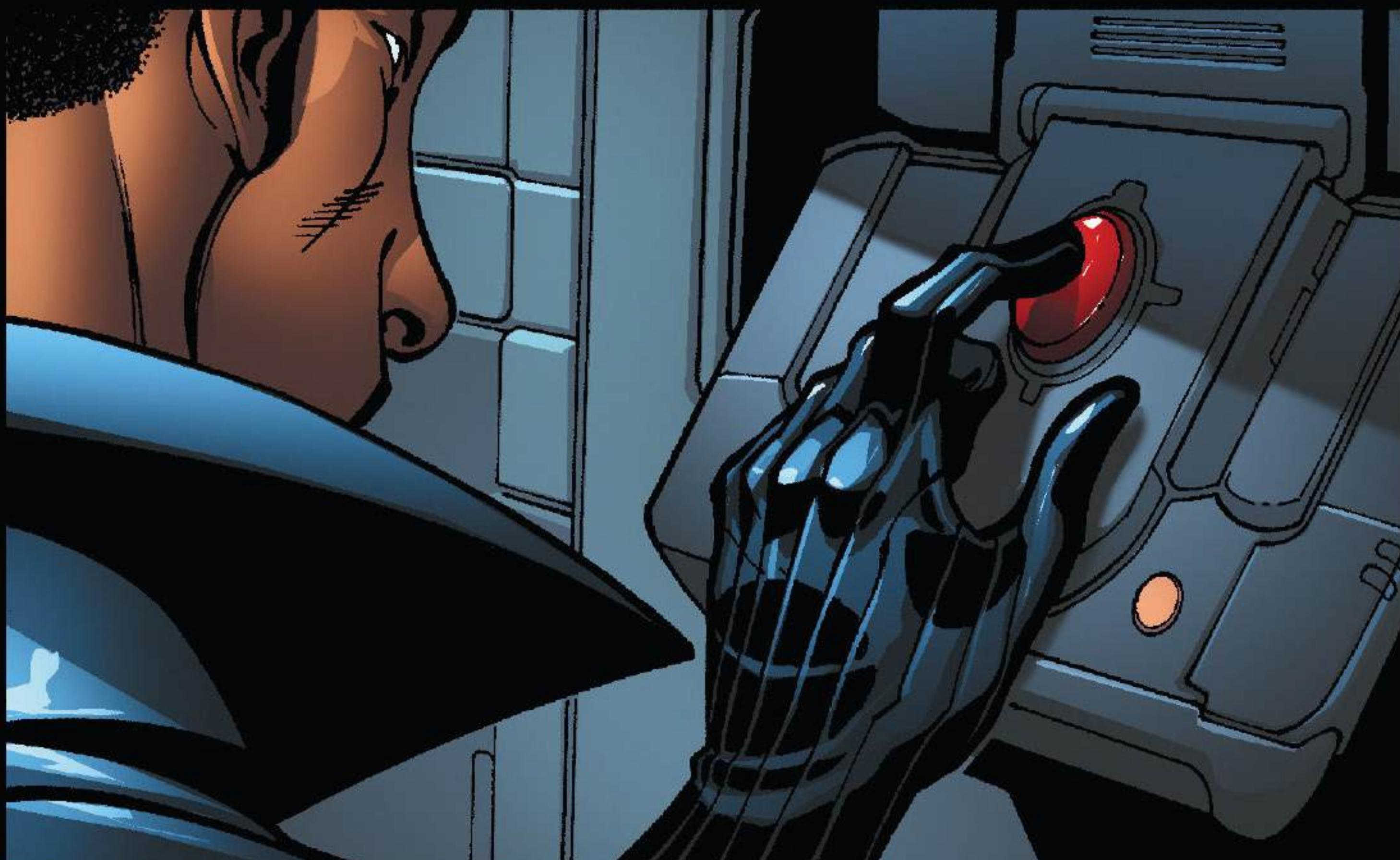
I DON'T JOKE.

BUT LET ME STATE FOR THE RECORD, I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF ANYONE OR ANYTHING THAT HAS ARRAYED ITSELF AGAINST WHAT STARK AND HIS MINIONS HAVE WROUGHT.

YOU DON'T SAY?

BECAUSE, "YOUR HIGHNESS," WE HAVE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THIS CURRENT INCARNATION IS BEING FUNDED BY A CONSIDERABLY WEALTHY SOURCE.

TO BE SPECIFIC: SEVERAL OFFSHORE COMPANIES THAT ARE ALL SUBSIDIARIES OF WAKANDA HOLDINGS, LLC.





YOUR
HIGHNESS.



WHAT'S
THIS?

DIGITAL
MANIFESTS OF
ALL THE SHIPMENTS
AND ORDER NUMBERS
OF THE ITEMS
AND SUBSIDIARIES
IN QUESTION.



HOW DO WE KNOW
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN
DOCTORED?

YOU *DON'T*.
YOU HAVE ONLY
THE *WORD* OF
THE KING OF
WAKANDA.

WELL, THE
BARON OF
BROOKLYN SAYS THAT
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO
CHECK THESE OUT BEFORE
WE CAN TAKE YOUR
WORD. YOU MIND IF WE
TAKE THIS?



OF
COURSE.

DETECTIVE,
YOU MAY NOT
KNOW THIS, BUT WE
SHARE A KINSHIP, A
MOTHERLAND. THERE
IS NO NEED FOR
POSTURING.



I'M JUST
HERE TO
FIND OUT THE
TRUTH.



THEN STOP
LOOKING FOR
CONSPIRACIES
WHERE THERE
ARE NONE.

AS WE SAY
IN MY LAND: "IF
YOU WANT TO CATCH
THE BEST FISH, CAST
YOUR NET CLOSER
TO HOME..."

IF YOU
DARE.

MEANWHILE...

IT'S YOUR
FAULT!

TATTOO WAS
DOGGIN' IT AND
YOU KNOW IT! ALWAYS
COMPLAININ', SKIPPING
TRAINING! SHE WAS
A LIABILITY!

SHE'S
DEAD, SKYBOLT.
HAVE SOME
RESPECT!

AND I'M SORRY
'BOUT THAT, BUT
THIS AIN'T THE BOY
SCOUTS, YOUNG'UN.
THIS HERE GAME'S
FER KEEPS.

NO ONE
SIGNS UP TO
DIE, VIN. NOT
EVEN WHEN WE
WERE WITH THE X-MEN.

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT.
THRASH ISN'T EVEN
HERE HALF THE TIME.
LIKE WE AREN'T
WORTH IT.

MAYBE IF WE
WERE BETTER
TRAINED--

ANGEL, YOU
DON'T BELIEVE
THAT, DO
YOU?

I DON'T
KNOW...
MAYBE.

MY SISTER'S
BLOOD IS ON
HIS HANDS!

THIS IS WAR,
CHRISTIAN. IT'S PART
OF THE GAME.

WHAT ABOUT
NEXT TIME?? HOW
MANY OF US ARE
SUPPOSED TO DIE
BECAUSE OF
HIS CAUSE?

IT'S
OUR CAUSE.
WE'RE A
TEAM!

THEN WE
SHOULD ACT
LIKE ONE.

THAT'S
ENOUGH.

EVERYONE,
LISTEN UP...

I MADE
MYSELF A PROMISE
WHEN I FORMED THIS
TEAM THAT **NO ONE**
WOULD FALL ON MY
WATCH. THAT EITHER WE
ALL GO HOME OR NO
ONE GOES HOME. THAT,
COME HELL OR HIGH
WATER, WE WOULDN'T
END UP LIKE THE
LAST TEAM.

BUT ONE
OF OUR OWN FELL
TODAY AND ANOTHER
WAS BADLY INJURED
DEFENDING US WHEN
WE WERE BACK ON
OUR HEELS. AS TEAM
LEADER, IT WAS MY
RESPONSIBILITY AND,
BY EXTENSION,
MY FAULT.

C'MON, THRASH.
WE ALL KNEW THE
DEAL WHEN WE
JOINED. NO ONE
BLAMES YOU.

QUIET,
RIPCORD.

WE FOUGHT
THE GOOD FIGHT,
BUT WHEN IT CAME
DOWN TO IT...WE JUST
WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
AND I **REFUSE** TO PUT
ANY MORE LIVES ON
THE LINE.

AS A
RESULT...
I'M **PULLING**
THE PLUG.

HUH?

THRASH,
WHAT'S
UP? TALK
TO ME.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

JUST
WHAT I SAID,
BLACKWING.

EFFECTIVE
IMMEDIATELY, THE
NEW WARRIORS ARE
OFFICIALLY
DISBANDED!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:



MARVEL

6

THE INITIATIVE™

NEW WARRIORS®



THE

for

the

NEW
WARRIORS

GREVIOUX
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA

PREVIOUSLY...

SOMEONE IS GIFT-WRAPPING SUPER-VILLAINS FOR THE POLICE. SOMEONE IS DEFACING SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION POSTERS. SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE NYPD COSTUMED DIVISION STUMPED. AND THE ONLY CLUES TO THEIR IDENTITIES? A SINGLE PHRASE, SPRAY-PAINTED ON ALLEY WALLS AND STUCK TO TRUSSED UP SUPER-VILLAINS: THE NEW WARRIORS WERE HERE.

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WHEN THE ALL-NEW ZODIAC TRAMPLES MEMBERS OF THE INITIATIVE IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK, THE NEW WARRIORS ARRIVE TO QUELL THE CONFLICT. THE WARRIORS WIN THE DAY, BUT AT A PRICE: ONE OF THEIR OWN BECAME A CASUALTY OF THE FRAY, AND SOFIA, WHO HAD ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AND RUSHED TO THE WARRIORS' AID, WAS CRITICALLY INJURED. REFUSING TO LET THIS TEAM END UP LIKE THE LAST, NIGHT THRASHER MAKES HIS FINAL DECISION AS TEAM LEADER: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE NEW WARRIORS ARE DISBANDED!



DEFIANT

Part Six

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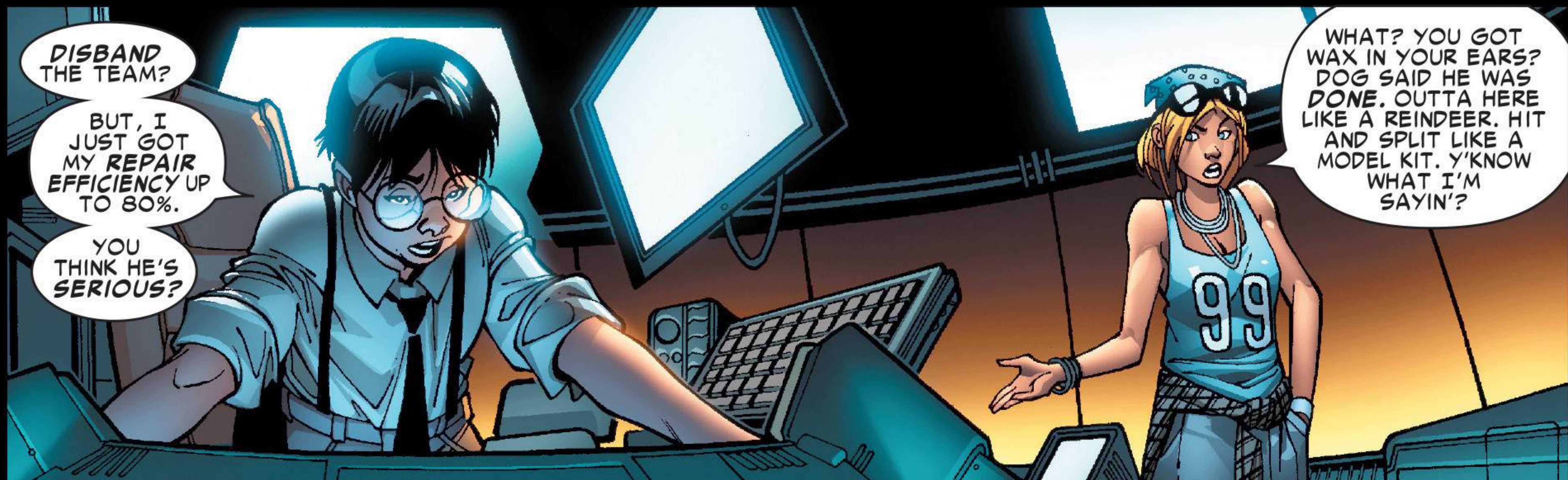
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DANIEL KETCHUM
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AXEL ALONSO
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JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER



DISBAND
THE TEAM?

BUT, I
JUST GOT
MY REPAIR
EFFICIENCY UP
TO 80%.

YOU
THINK HE'S
SERIOUS?

WHAT? YOU GOT
WAX IN YOUR EARS?
DOG SAID HE WAS
DONE. OUTTA HERE
LIKE A REINDEER. HIT
AND SPLIT LIKE A
MODEL KIT. Y'KNOW
WHAT I'M
SAYIN'?



UH, I GUESS.
GRACE...WHERE
ARE YOU
FROM?

FAIRFAX,
VIRGINIA, YO.
WHY?

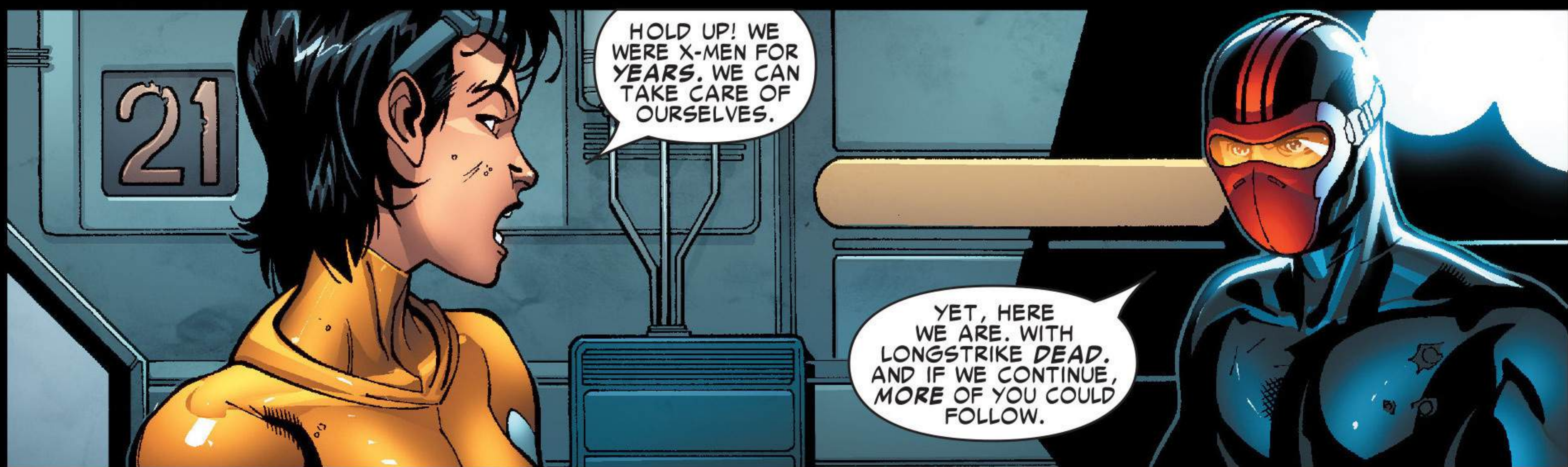
UH, REALLY NOT
DIGGING THE HIP-
HOP WHITE GIRL
LINGO.



DISSOLVE
THE TEAM? ARE
YOU OUT OF
YOUR MIND?

WEREN'T
YOU THE ONE
QUESTIONING MY
COMMITMENT?

I LET THE
SCOPE OF THE
MISSION CLOUD MY
JUDGMENT. AND I
REFUSE TO ENDANGER
ANY OF YOU ANY
LONGER.



HOLD UP! WE
WERE X-MEN FOR
YEARS. WE CAN
TAKE CARE OF
OURSELVES.

YET, HERE
WE ARE. WITH
LONGSTRIKE DEAD.
AND IF WE CONTINUE,
MORE OF YOU COULD
FOLLOW.



WAITAMINUTE NOW,
THRASH--AH DIDN'T RISK
M'NECK FOR THE LAST
FEW MONTHS SO
WE COULD UP'N RUN
AT TH'FIRST SIGN
O'TROUBLE.

CORNPONE
IS RIGHT. I DIDN'T
COME ALL THIS WAY
TO QUIT, JUST
BECAUSE CHRISTINE
GOT GANKED.



YOU DON'T HAVE A *CHOICE*, RIPCORD. NONE OF YOU DO.

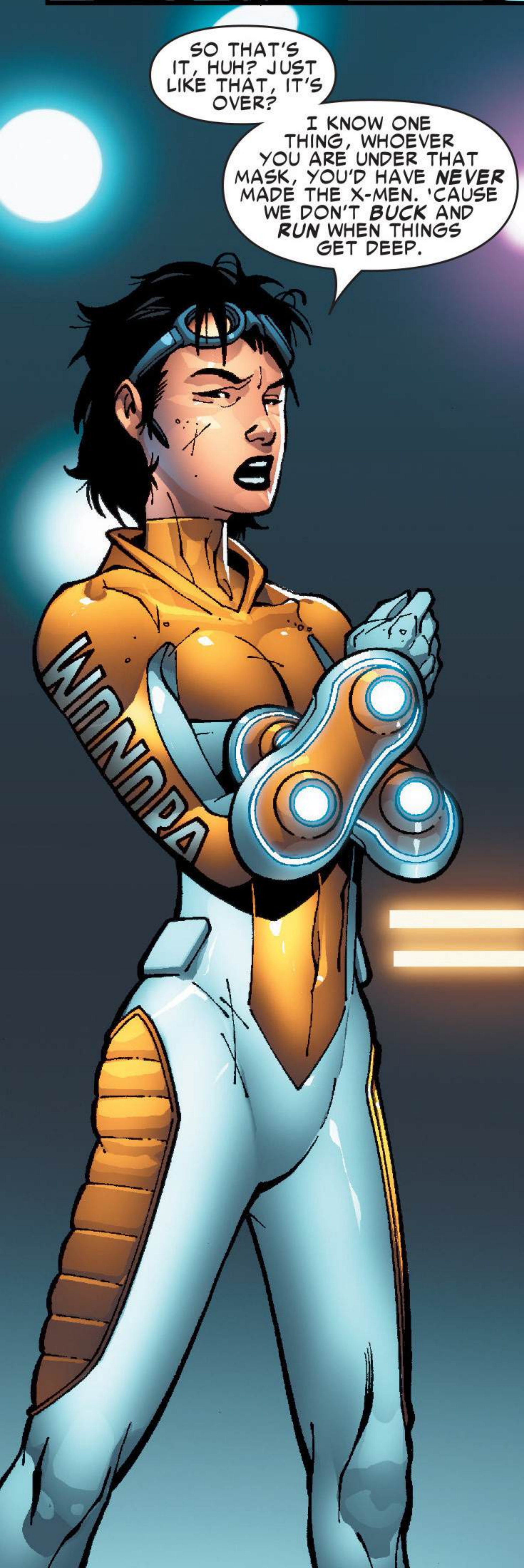
OH, I GET IT...THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY SO YOU TAKE YOUR BALL AND GO HOME, RIGHT?

TOY REBEL.



THRASH-- DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A BIT HASTY, MATE? YOU LOST TEAMMATES BEFORE, BUT YOU CAME BACK T'BUILD THIS SQUAD. YOU'VE DONE *GREAT*. WHY QUIT NOW?

THIS IS DIFFERENT...

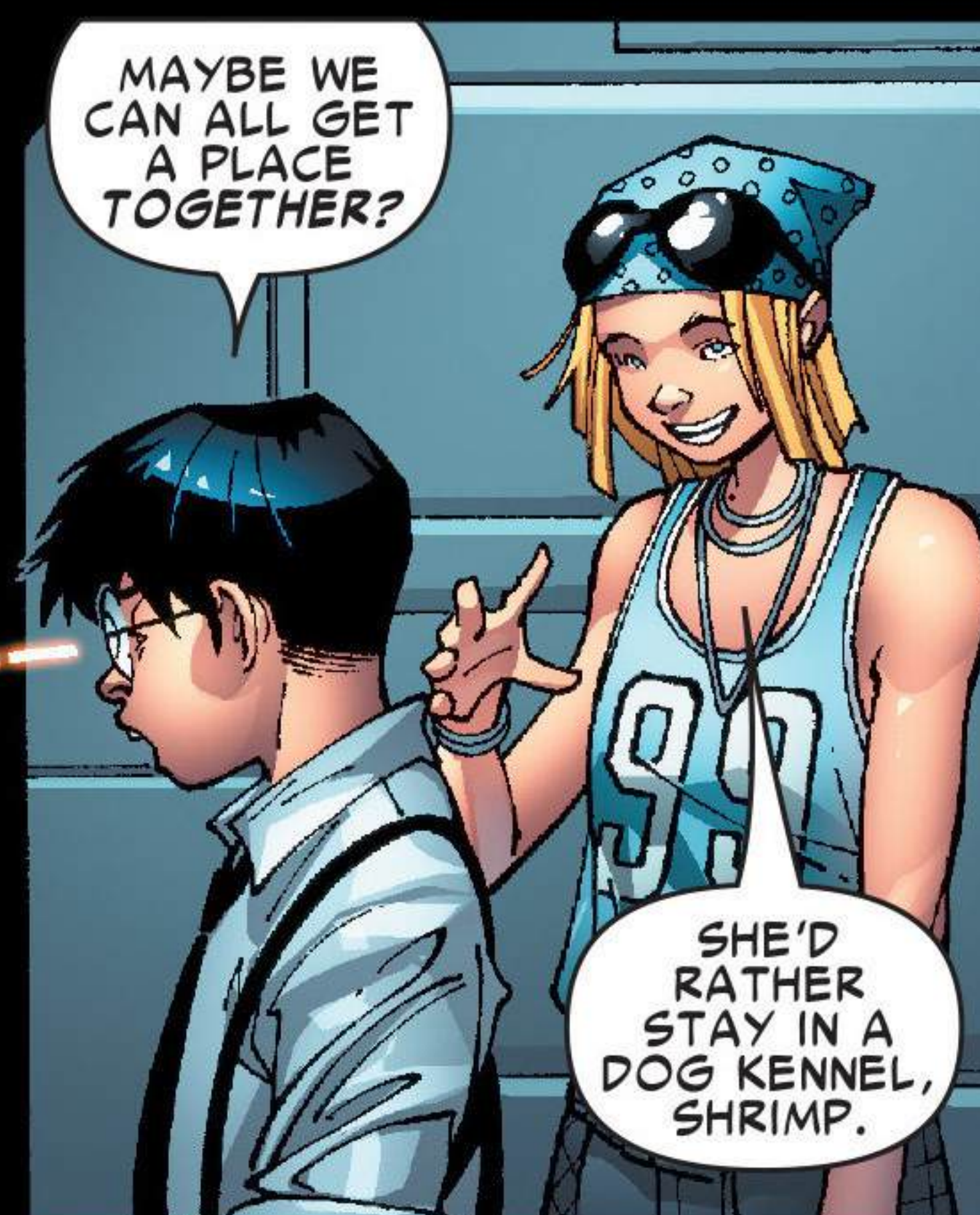


SO THAT'S IT, HUH? JUST LIKE THAT, IT'S OVER?

I KNOW ONE THING, WHOEVER YOU ARE UNDER THAT MASK, YOU'D HAVE *NEVER* MADE THE X-MEN. 'CAUSE WE DON'T *BUCK* AND *RUN* WHEN THINGS GET DEEP.



WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? I DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO GO.



MAYBE WE CAN ALL GET A PLACE TOGETHER?

SHE'D RATHER STAY IN A DOG KENNEL, SHRIMP.



DON'T WORRY. I'LL GIVE YOU EACH A *DEBIT CARD* LINKED TO YOUR OWN TWO-HUNDRED-GRAND ACCOUNT, FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET YOU ON YOUR FEET AND DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

THAT'LL WORK.



OWWW--! WHAT'D I SAY??

YOU'LL HAVE IT BY THIS EVENING.

LATER...



SO? AM I GONNA LIVE?

'FRAID SO. YOU SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW WEEKS. JUST REST EASY AND DON'T GO SAVING ANY MORE SUPER HEROES.

I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER THAT.

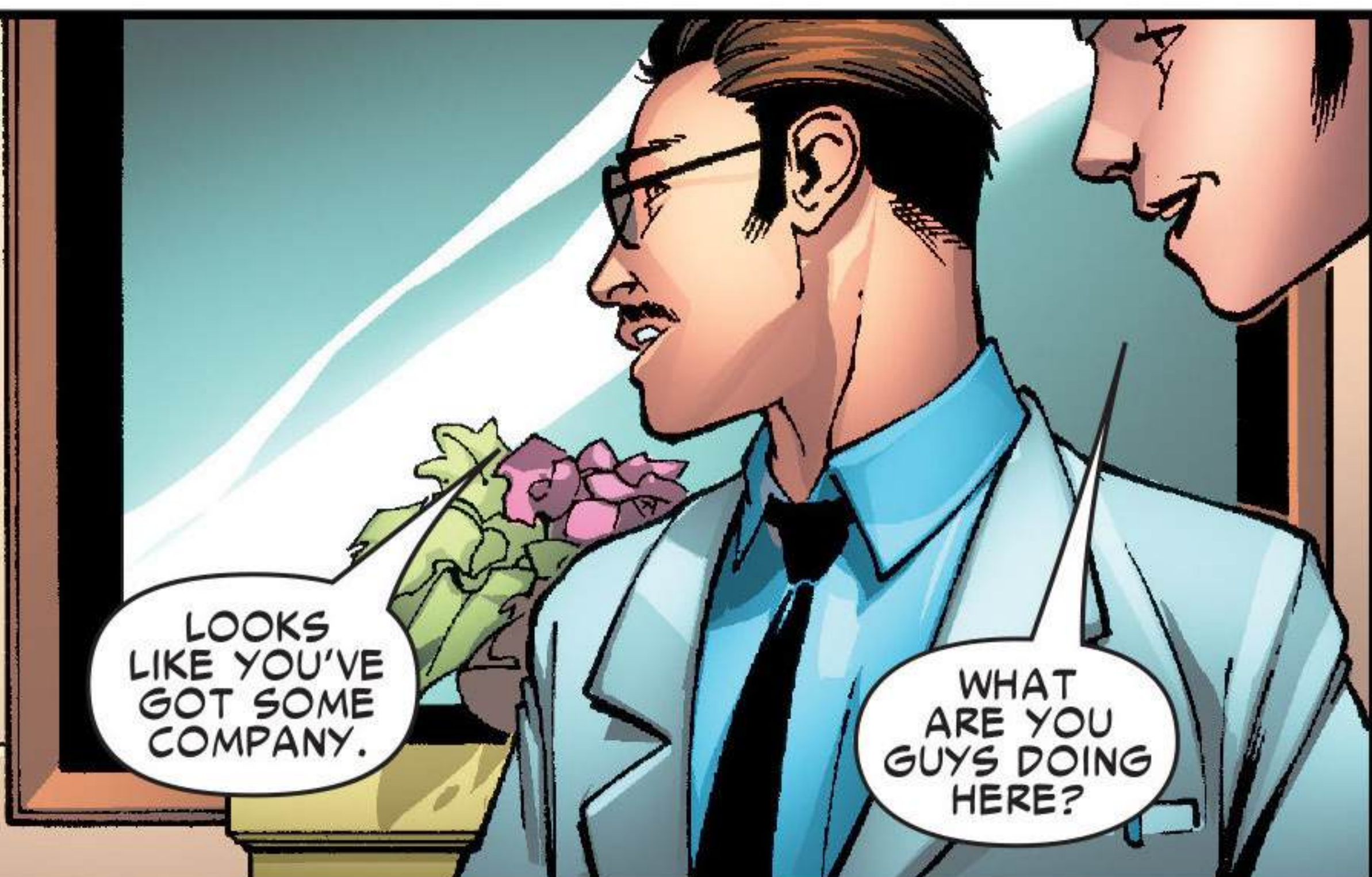
HEY, GIRL.



HOW YA DOIN', KID?

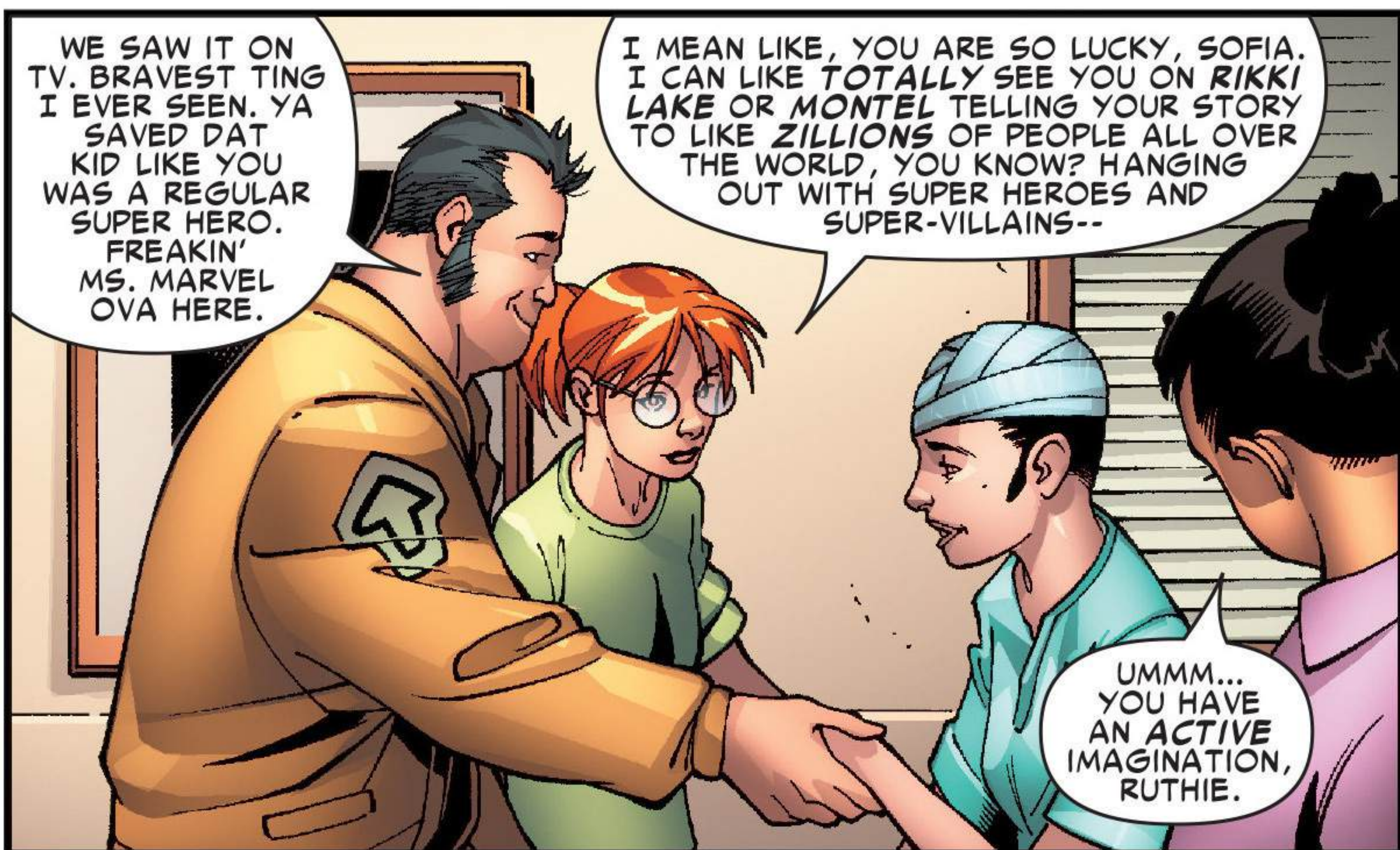
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME COMPANY.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?



DON'T STAY TOO LONG. SHE NEEDS HER REST.

TANKS, DOC.



WE SAW IT ON TV. BRAVEST THING I EVER SEEN. YA SAVED DAT KID LIKE YOU WAS A REGULAR SUPER HERO. FREAKIN' MS. MARVEL OVA HERE.

I MEAN LIKE, YOU ARE SO LUCKY, SOFIA. I CAN LIKE TOTALLY SEE YOU ON RIKKI LAKE OR MONTEL TELLING YOUR STORY TO LIKE ZILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU KNOW? HANGING OUT WITH SUPER HEROES AND SUPER-VILLAINS--

UMMM... YOU HAVE AN ACTIVE IMAGINATION, RUTHIE.



OH, PLEASE COULD I LIKE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

WOULD YOU GIVE THE CHILD ROOM TO BREATHE, PLEASE--?



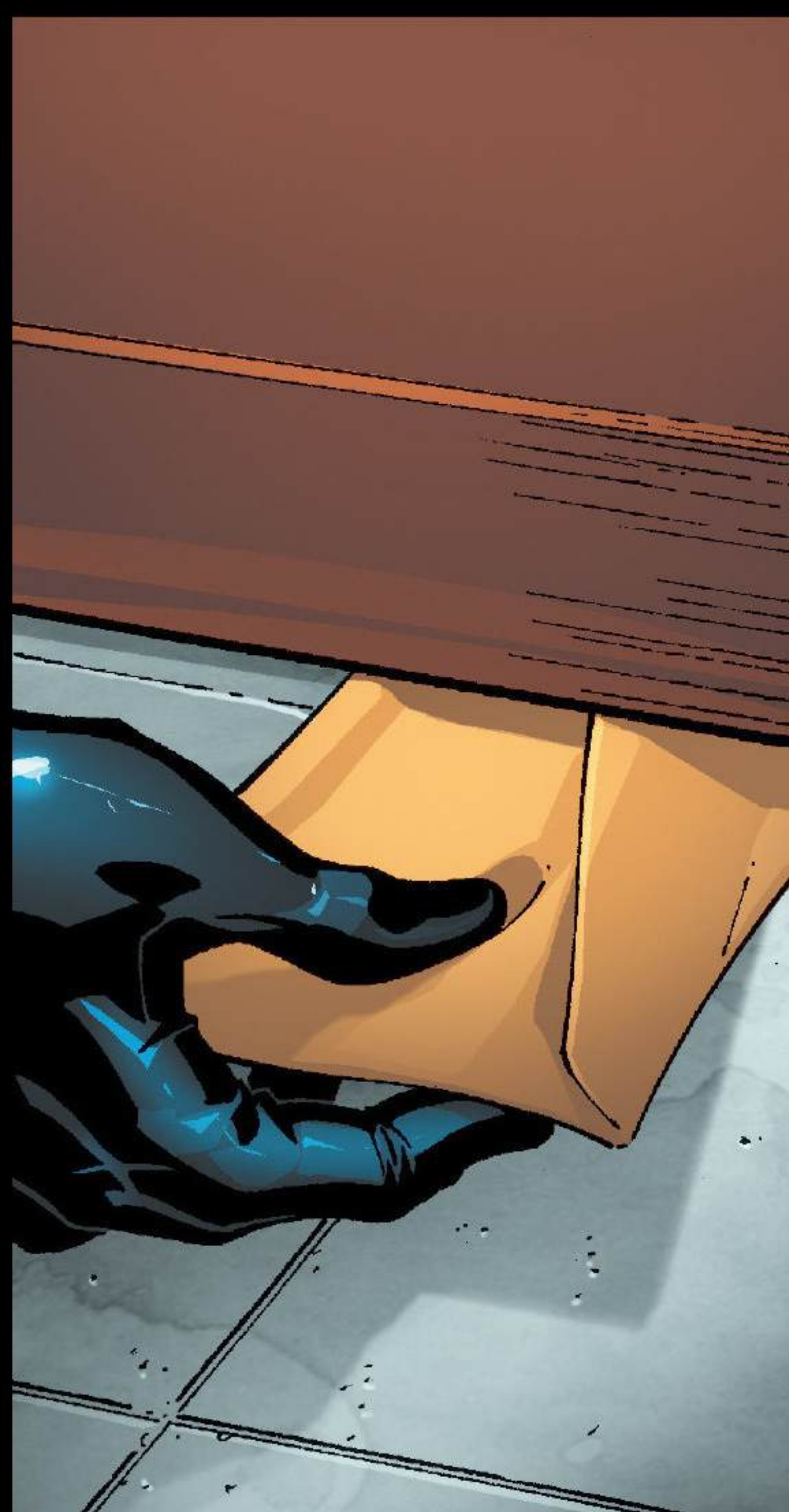
FROM NOW ON--YOU GOT A JOB F'LIFE. YOU CAN COME IN ANYTIME YA WANT. I'LL EVEN NAME AN ITEM ON THE MENU AFTER YA. "SOFIA'S SPAGHETTI AND GRAVY." HOW'S DAT SOUND, HUH?

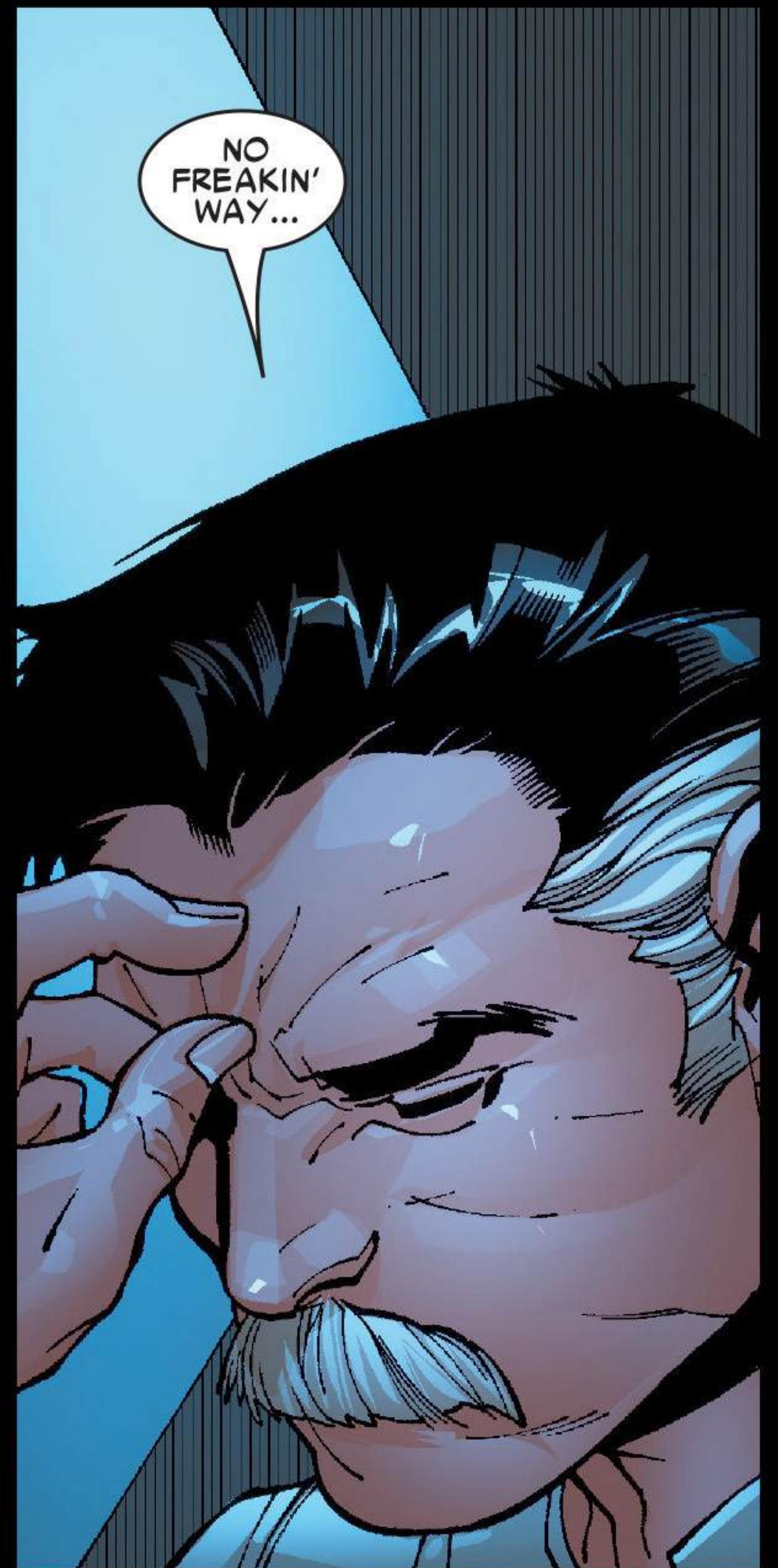
AND DON'T WORRY, SOFIA...I MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL JUS' FOR YOU.

THANKS, GUYS.

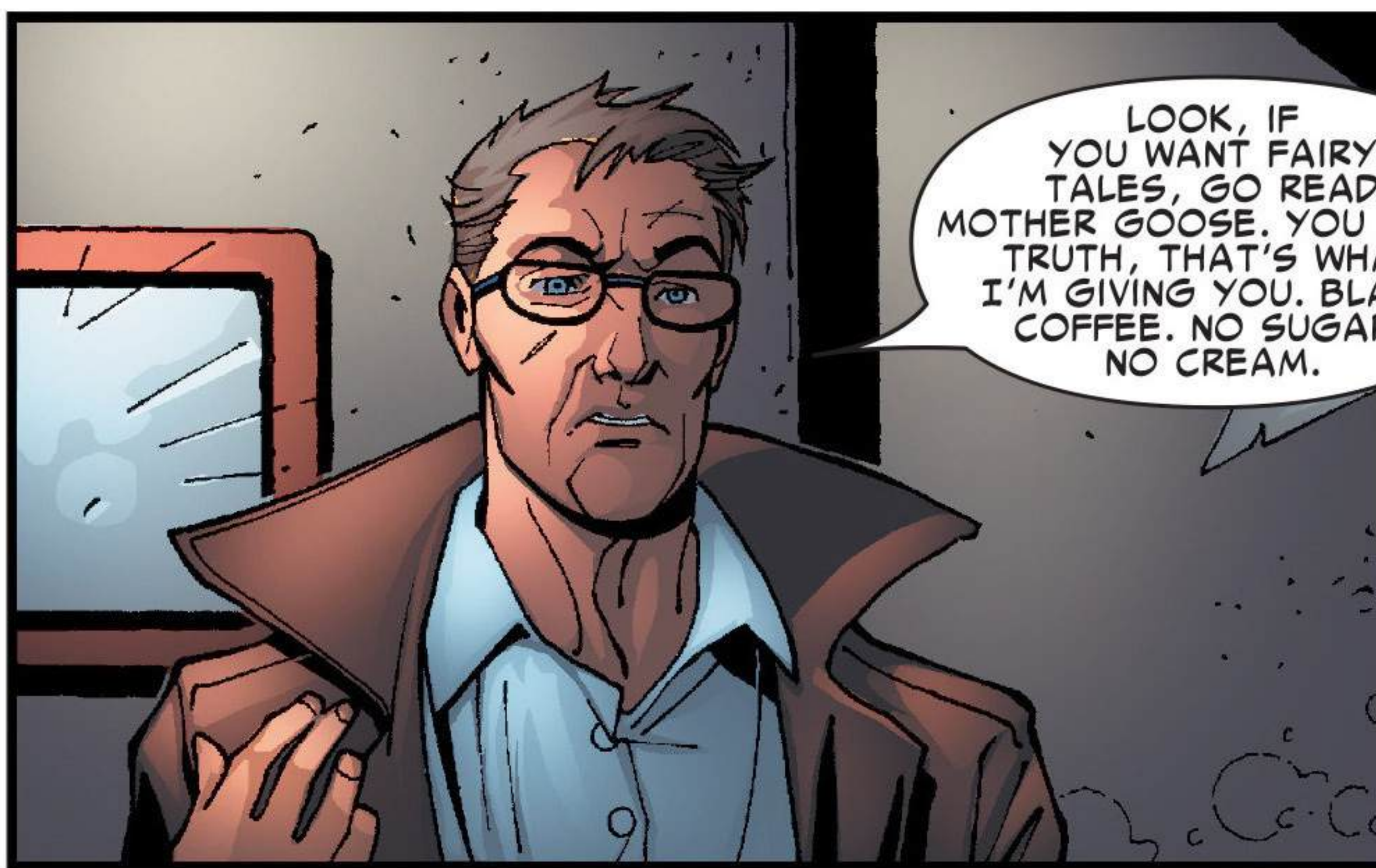


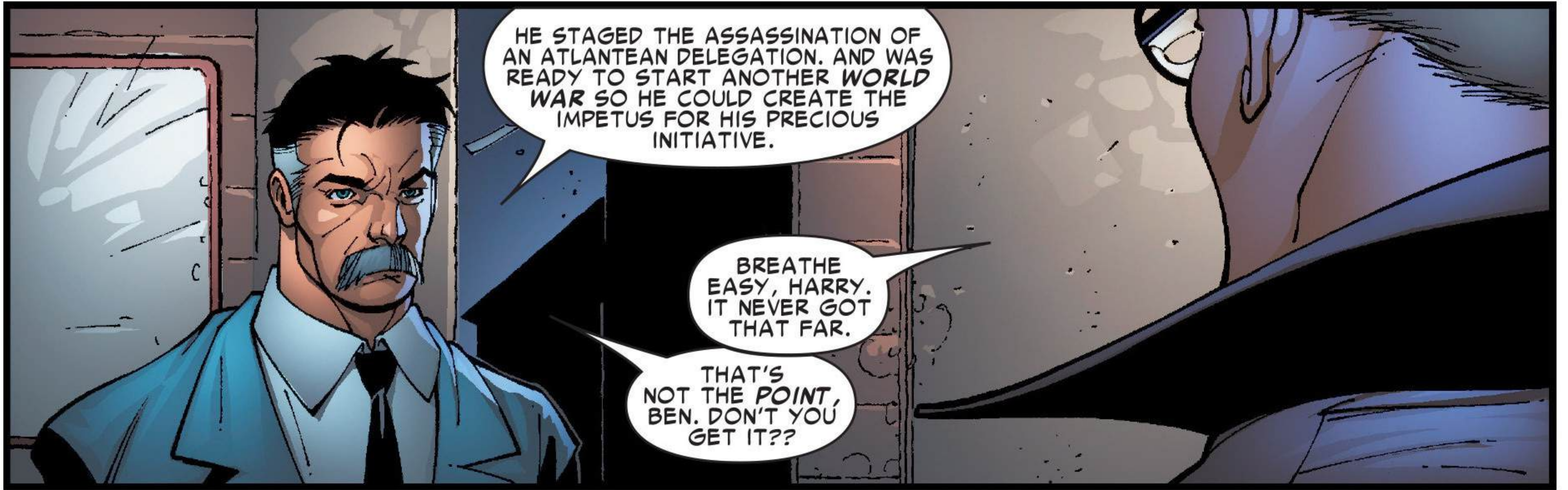
LATER...







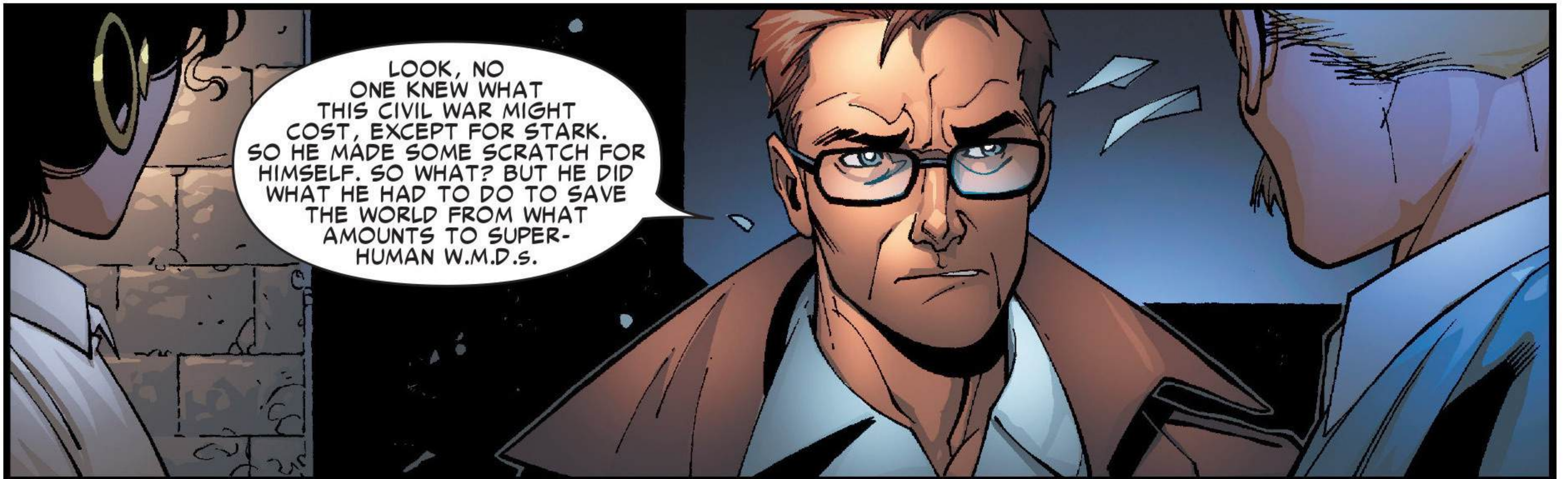




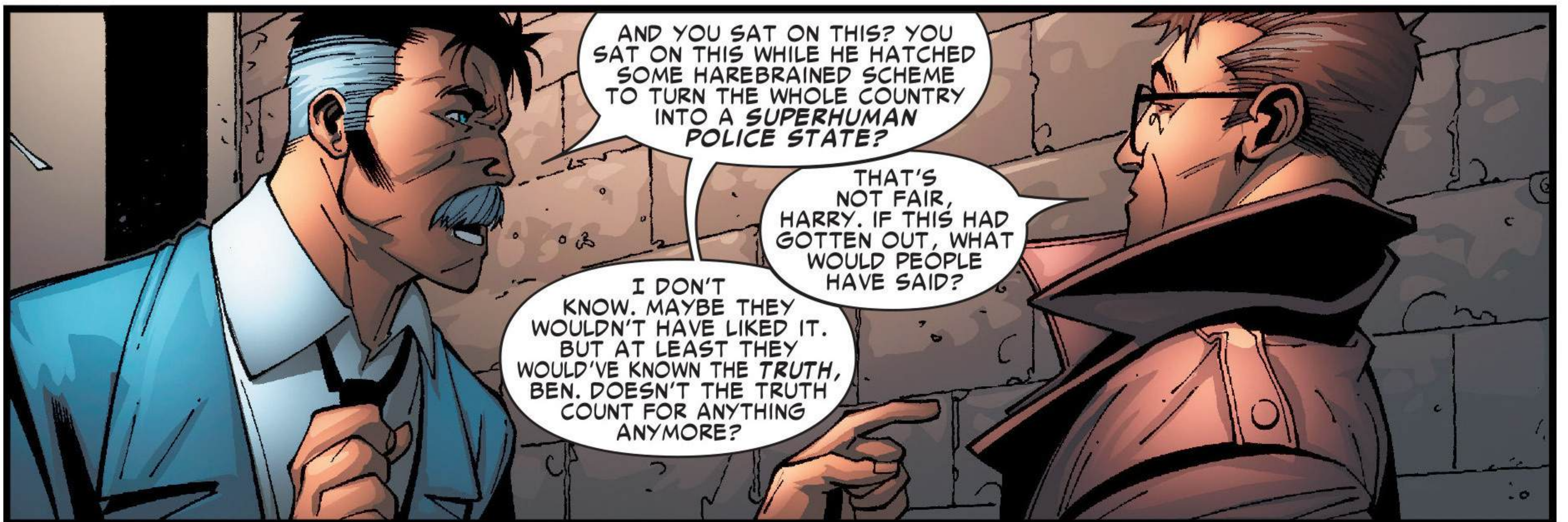
HE STAGED THE ASSASSINATION OF AN ATLANTIAN DELEGATION. AND WAS READY TO START ANOTHER WORLD WAR SO HE COULD CREATE THE IMPETUS FOR HIS PRECIOUS INITIATIVE.

BREATHE EASY, HARRY. IT NEVER GOT THAT FAR.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT, BEN. DON'T YOU GET IT??



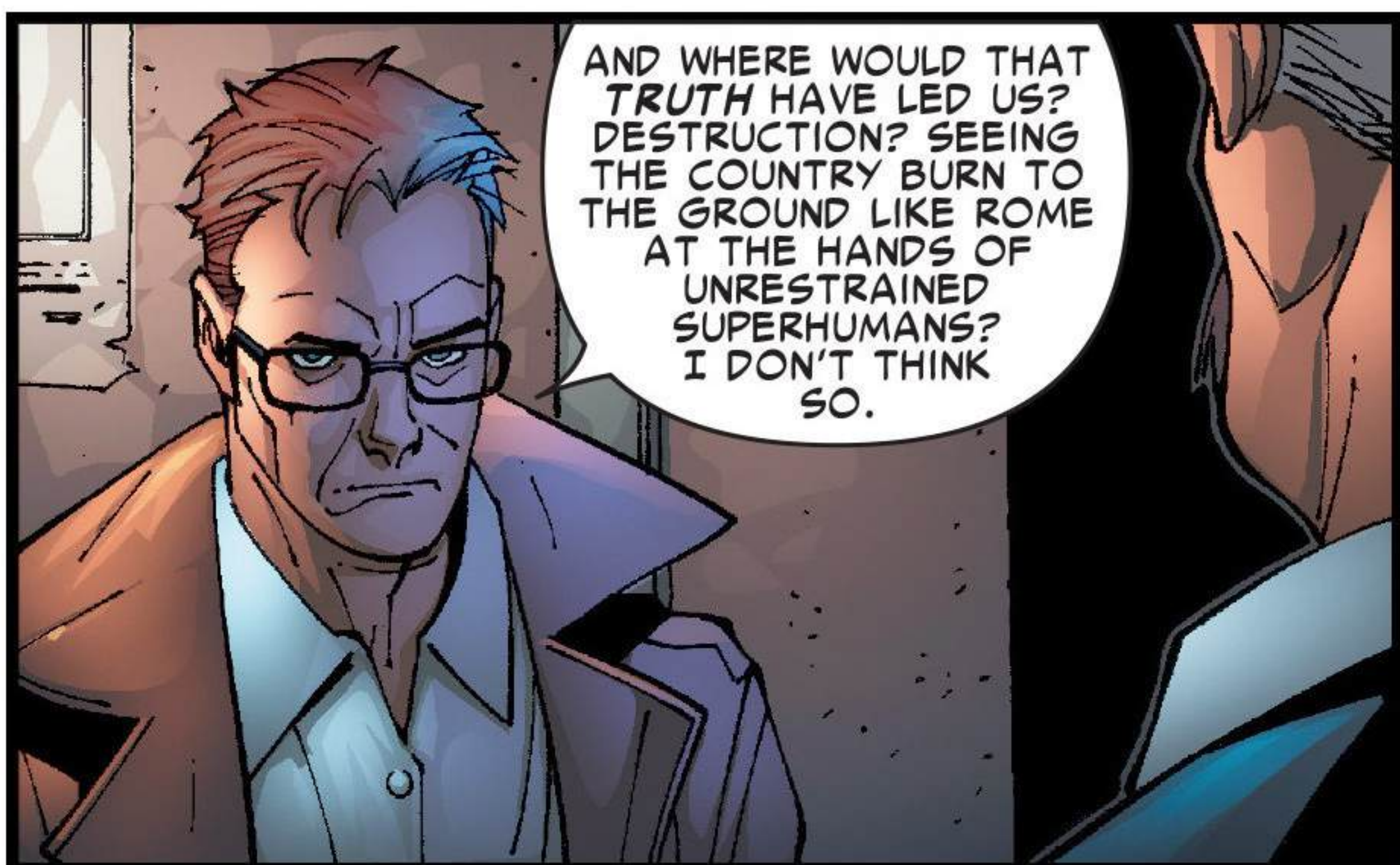
LOOK, NO ONE KNEW WHAT THIS CIVIL WAR MIGHT COST, EXCEPT FOR STARK. SO HE MADE SOME SCRATCH FOR HIMSELF. SO WHAT? BUT HE DID WHAT HE HAD TO DO TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM WHAT AMOUNTS TO SUPER-HUMAN W.M.D.s.



AND YOU SAT ON THIS? YOU SAT ON THIS WHILE HE HATCHED SOME HAREBRAINED SCHEME TO TURN THE WHOLE COUNTRY INTO A SUPERHUMAN POLICE STATE?

THAT'S NOT FAIR, HARRY. IF THIS HAD GOTTEN OUT, WHAT WOULD PEOPLE HAVE SAID?

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT. BUT AT LEAST THEY WOULD'VE KNOWN THE TRUTH, BEN. DOESN'T THE TRUTH COUNT FOR ANYTHING ANYMORE?



AND WHERE WOULD THAT TRUTH HAVE LED US? DESTRUCTION? SEEING THE COUNTRY BURN TO THE GROUND LIKE ROME AT THE HANDS OF UNRESTRAINED SUPERHUMANS? I DON'T THINK SO.

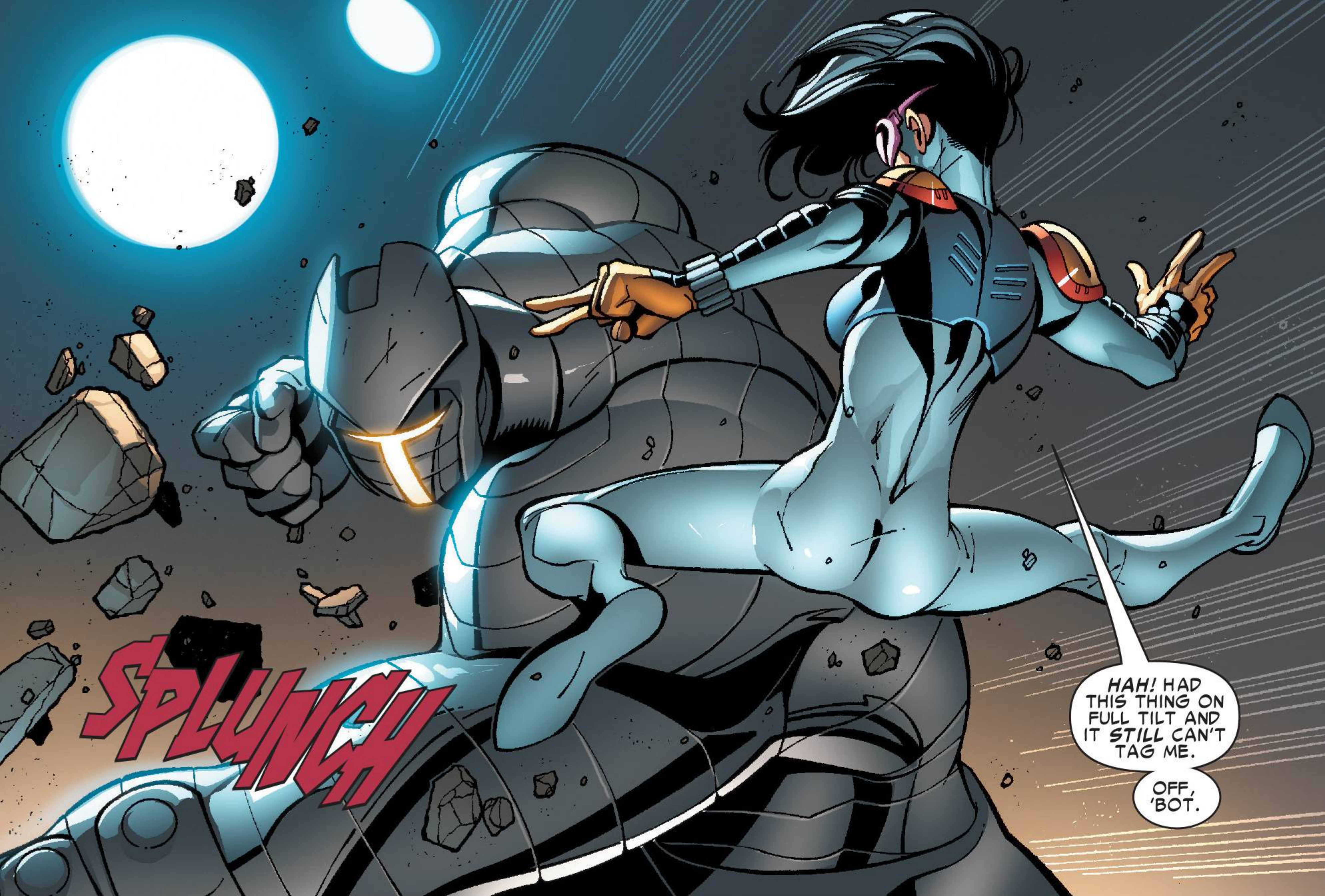


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, BEN? YOU USED TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING. YOU'D HAVE NEVER LET THIS GO DOWN BACK IN THE DAY. YOU HAD FAITH IN THE SYSTEM.

I WISED UP.

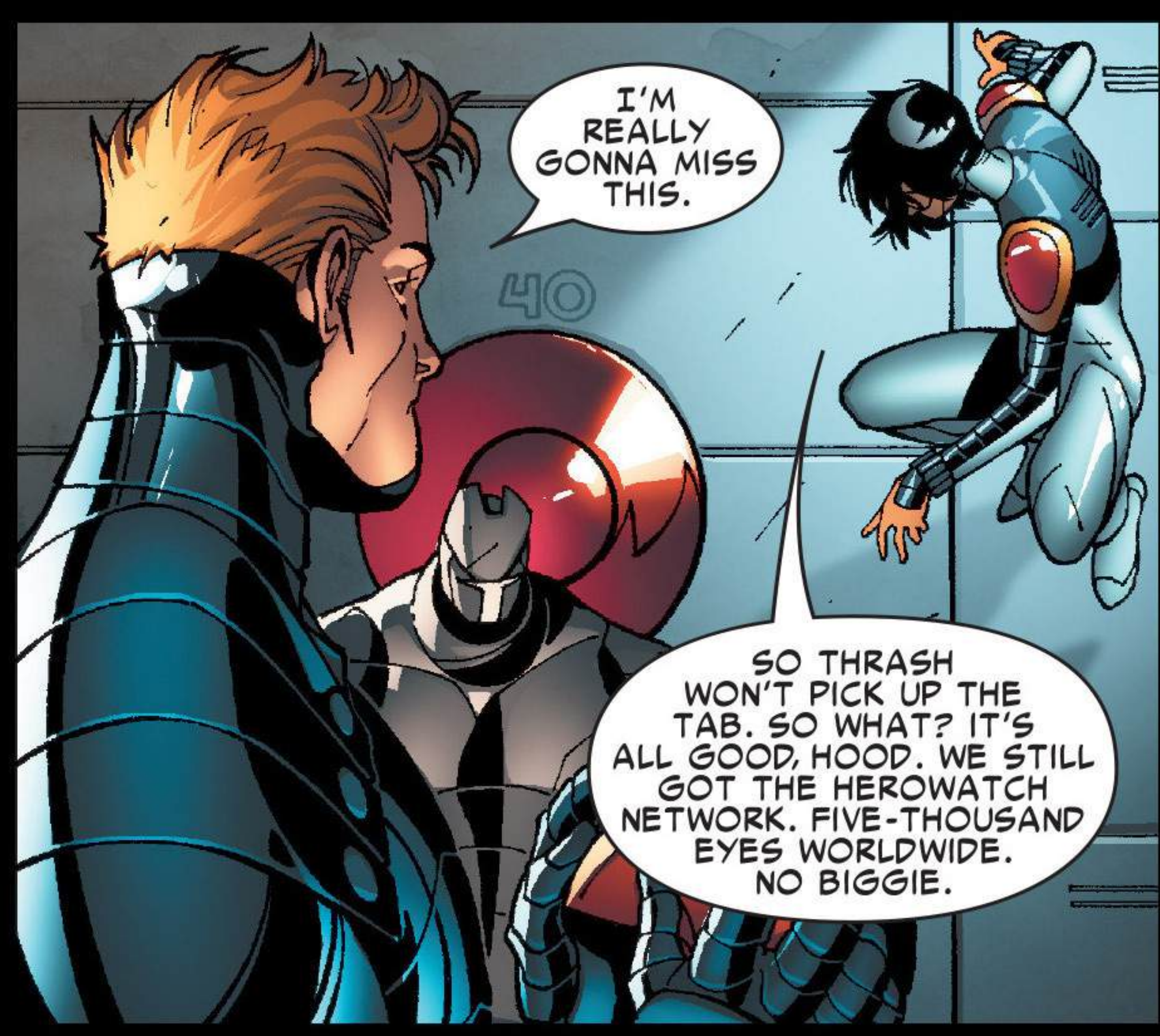


YOU SHOULD, TOO.



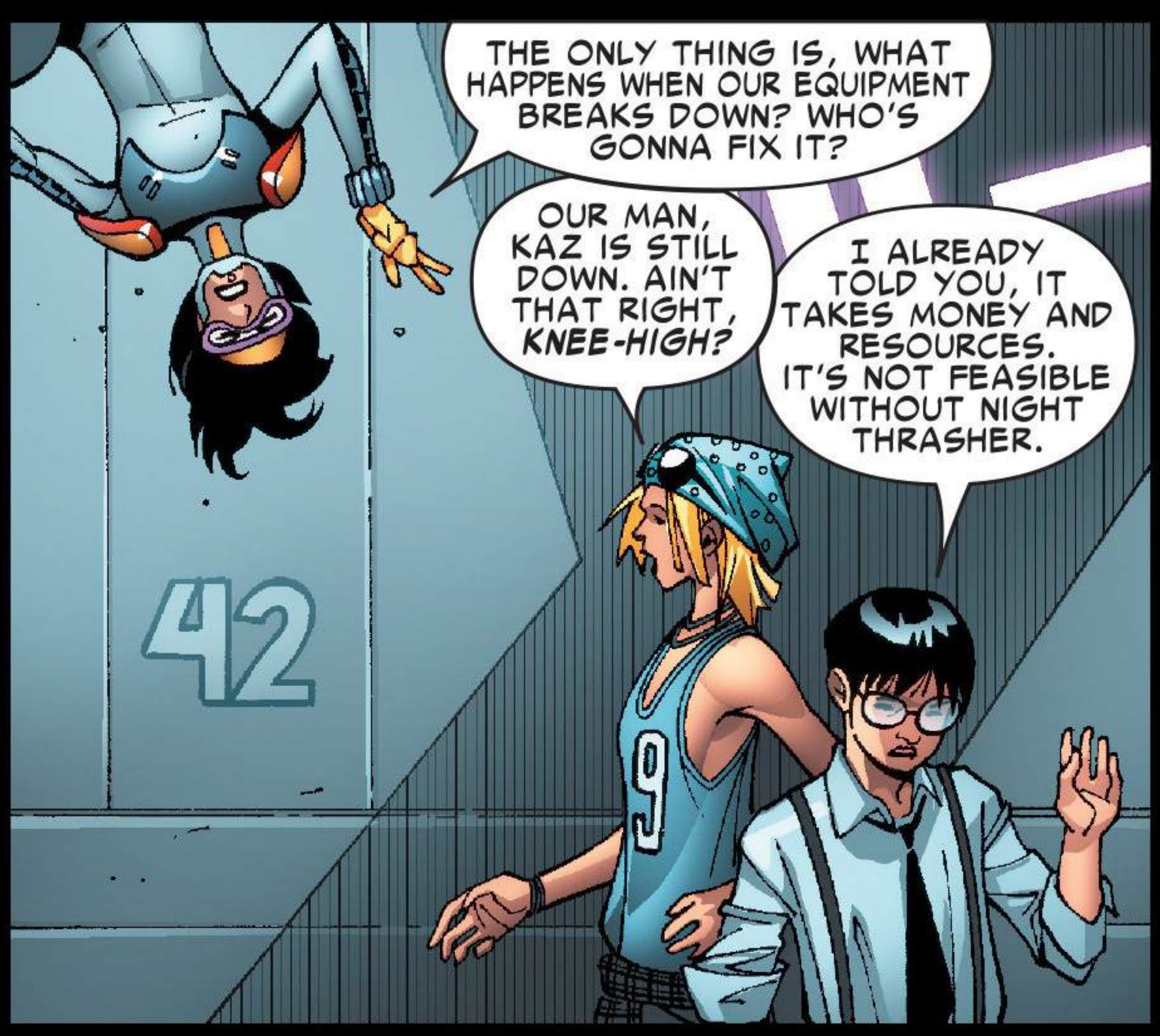
HAH! HAD THIS THING ON FULL TILT AND IT STILL CAN'T TAG ME.

OFF, 'BOT.



I'M REALLY GONNA MISS THIS.

SO THRASH WON'T PICK UP THE TAB. SO WHAT? IT'S ALL GOOD, HOOD. WE STILL GOT THE HEROWATCH NETWORK. FIVE-THOUSAND EYES WORLDWIDE. NO BIGGIE.



THE ONLY THING IS, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN OUR EQUIPMENT BREAKS DOWN? WHO'S GONNA FIX IT?

OUR MAN, KAZ IS STILL DOWN. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, KNEE-HIGH?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT TAKES MONEY AND RESOURCES. IT'S NOT FEASIBLE WITHOUT NIGHT THRASHER.



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS ARE STILL TRIVIALIZING WHAT HAPPENED--I JUST LOST MY SISTER BEHIND THIS VIGILANTE CRAP!

DON'T GO THERE, PHASER. WE ALL CARE. SHE WAS ONE OF US.



YOU FEELING OKAY, BABY?

NO I'M NOT, ANGEL. MY LIFE'S ABOUT TO END.



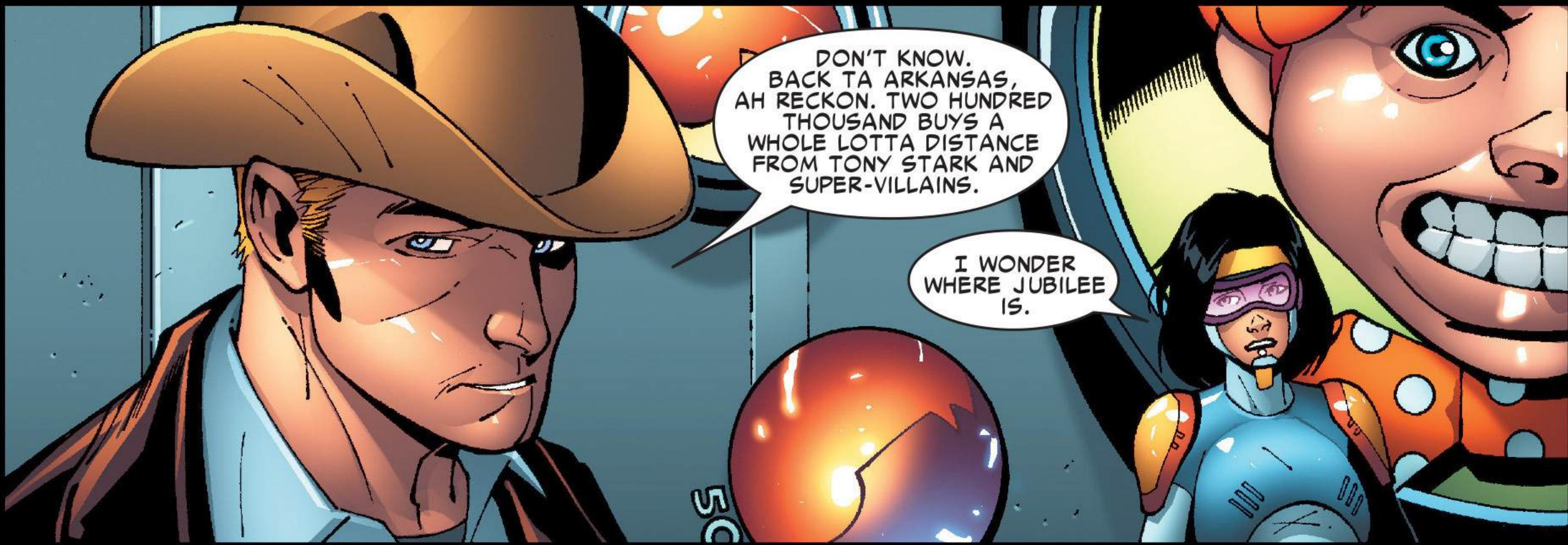
WE
HAVE EACH
OTHER.

AND THAT'S
GOOD, HONEY.
BUT I DON'T WANT
OUR KIDS TO GROW
UP IN THE UNITED
STATES OF "STARK
ENTERPRISES."



Y'MIGHT
AS WELL LET
IT GO, BARRY.
THRASH HAS A
SKULL THICK AS
TREE BARK.

THIS
DOESN'T
BOTHER YOU?
WHERE ARE
YOU GONNA GO?
WHAT ARE YOU
GONNA DO?



DON'T KNOW.
BACK TA ARKANSAS,
AH RECKON. TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND BUYS A
WHOLE LOTTA DISTANCE
FROM TONY STARK AND
SUPER-VILLAINS.

I WONDER
WHERE JUBILEE
IS.



SHE
BAILED. GOT
OUT BEFORE
SHE GOT
GOT. ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?

I'M NOT
BUYIN' IT. SHE
WAS MORE
COMMITTED
THAN ANY
OF US.



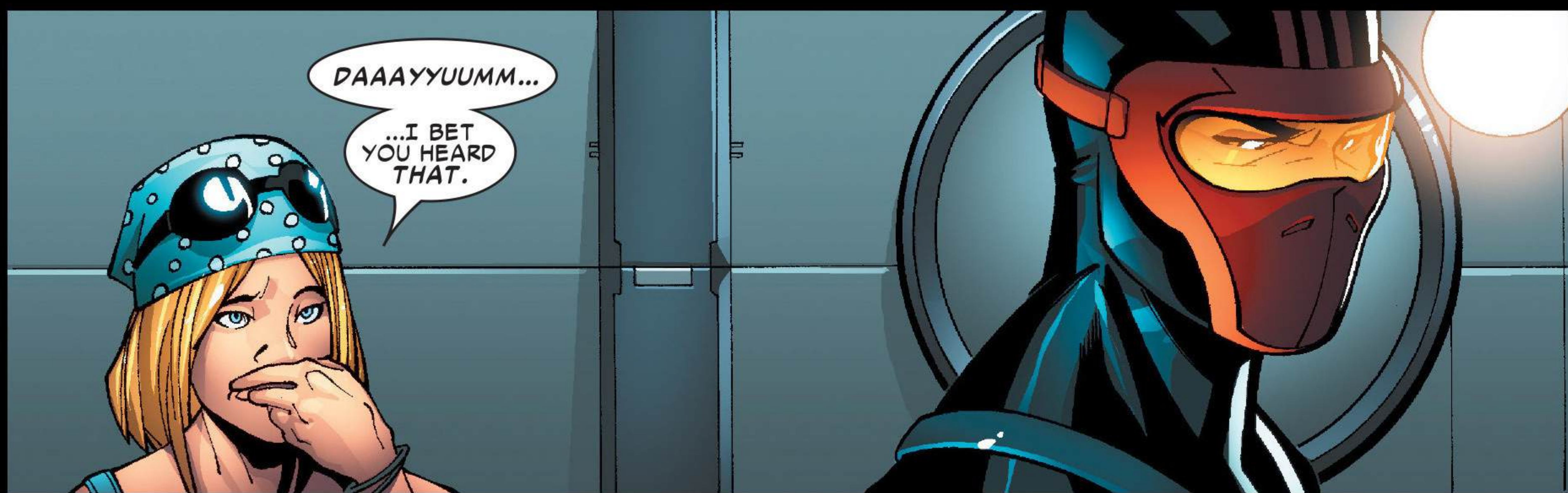
WHERE'S
JUBILEE?

NO NEED
TO MAKE
THIS HARDER
THAN IT IS.

LIKE I
PROMISED--





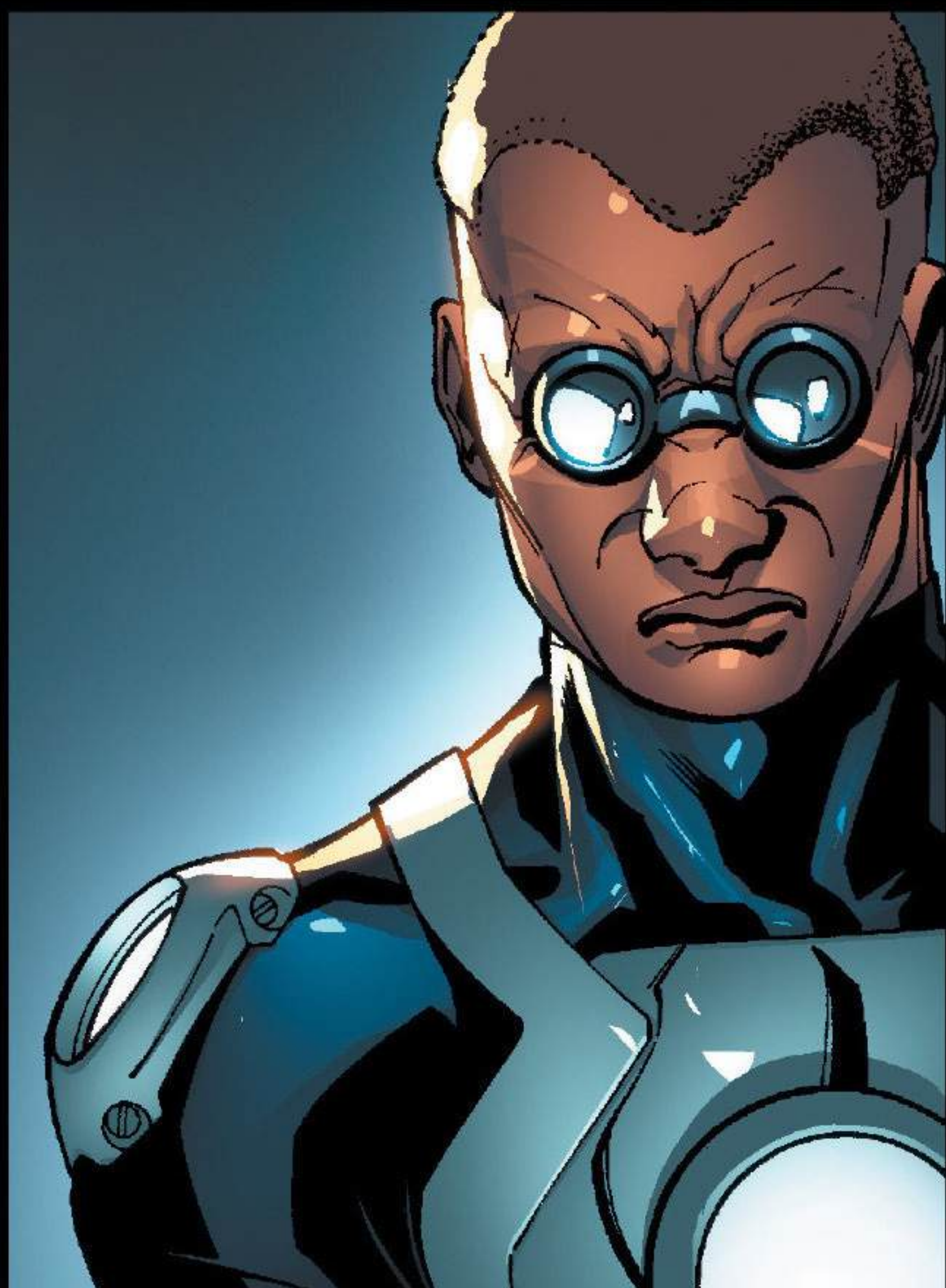




ALRIGHT--
WE LIVE ON...
AND FIGHT.

BUT NO MORE
GAMES. I WANT
EACH OF YOU TO GIVE
ME ALL YOU'VE GOT. AND
WHEN YOU CAN'T GO ON --
WHEN YOUR TEETH HURT, YOUR
NOSE BLEEDS AND YOUR
BONES ACHE--YOU
BETTER **DOUBLE**
YOUR EFFORTS.

IS THAT
UNDERSTOOD?

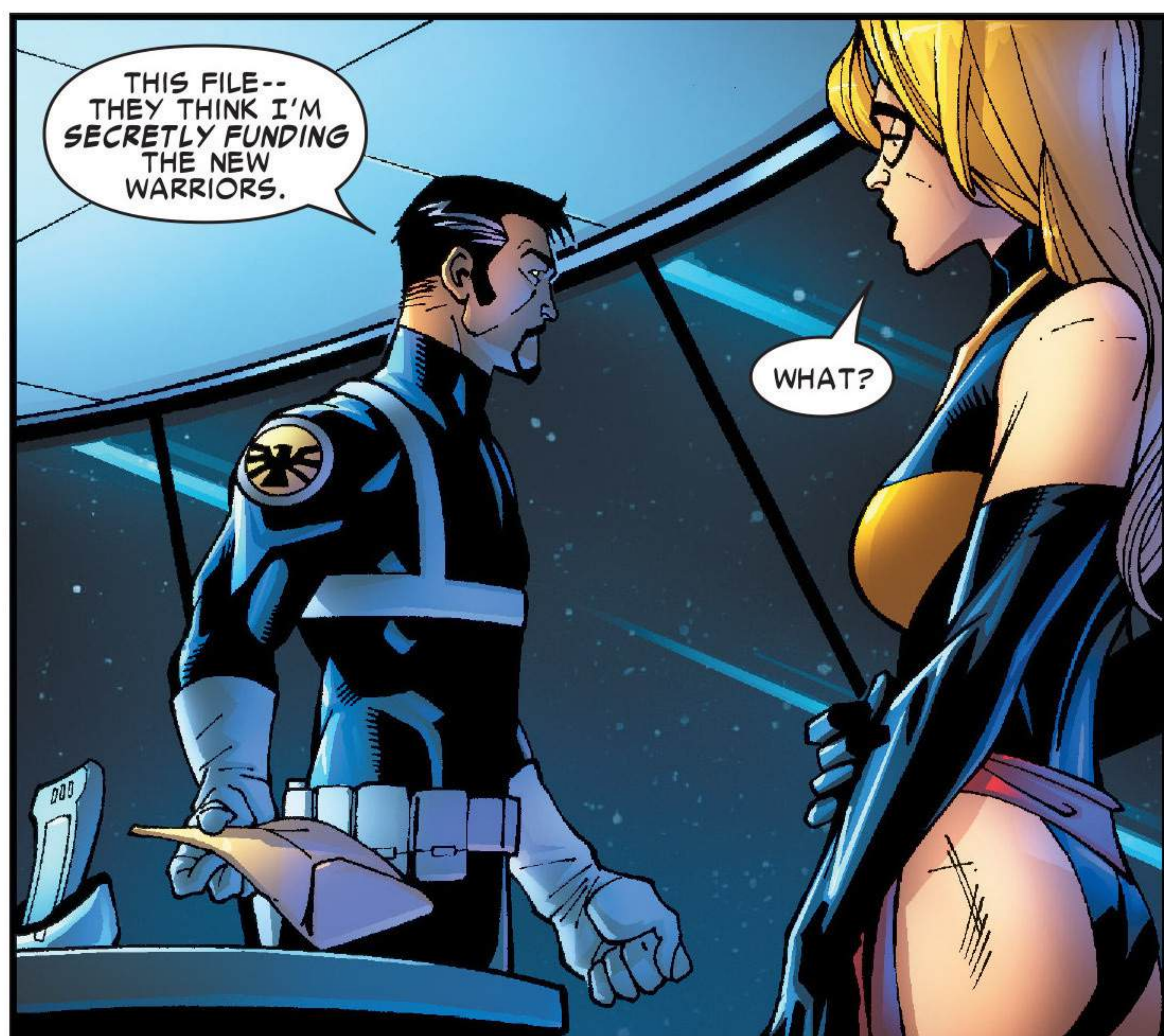


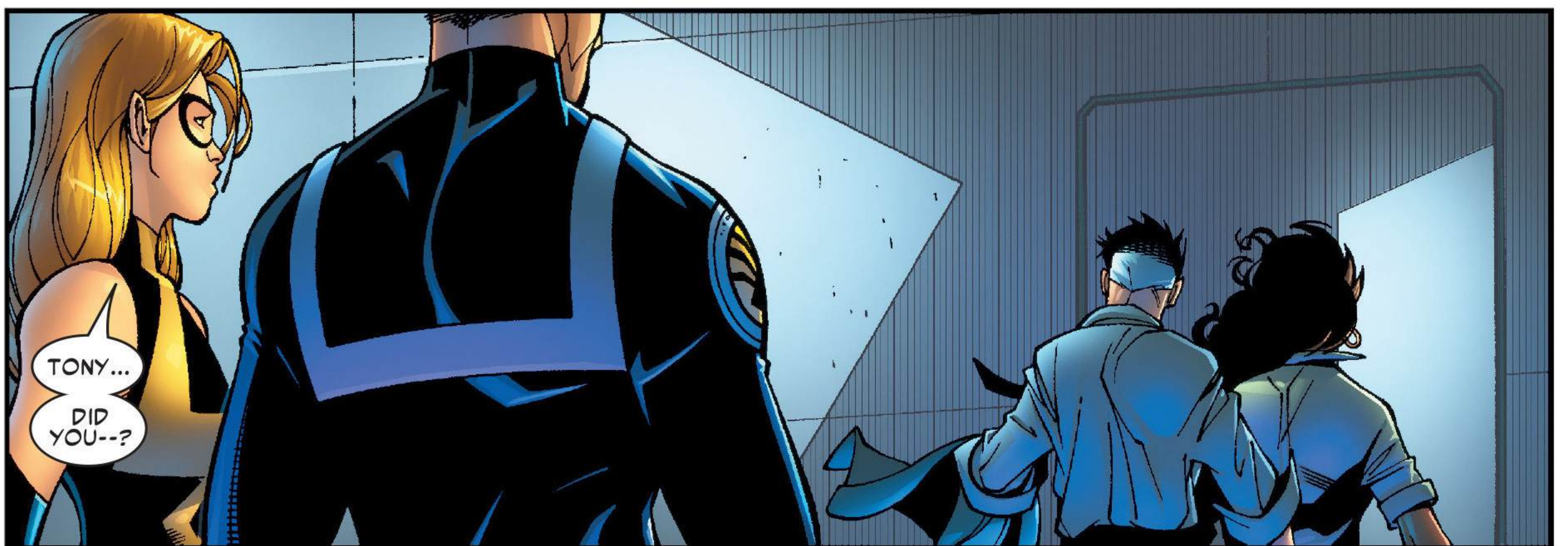
I
FEEL YOU,
N.T.

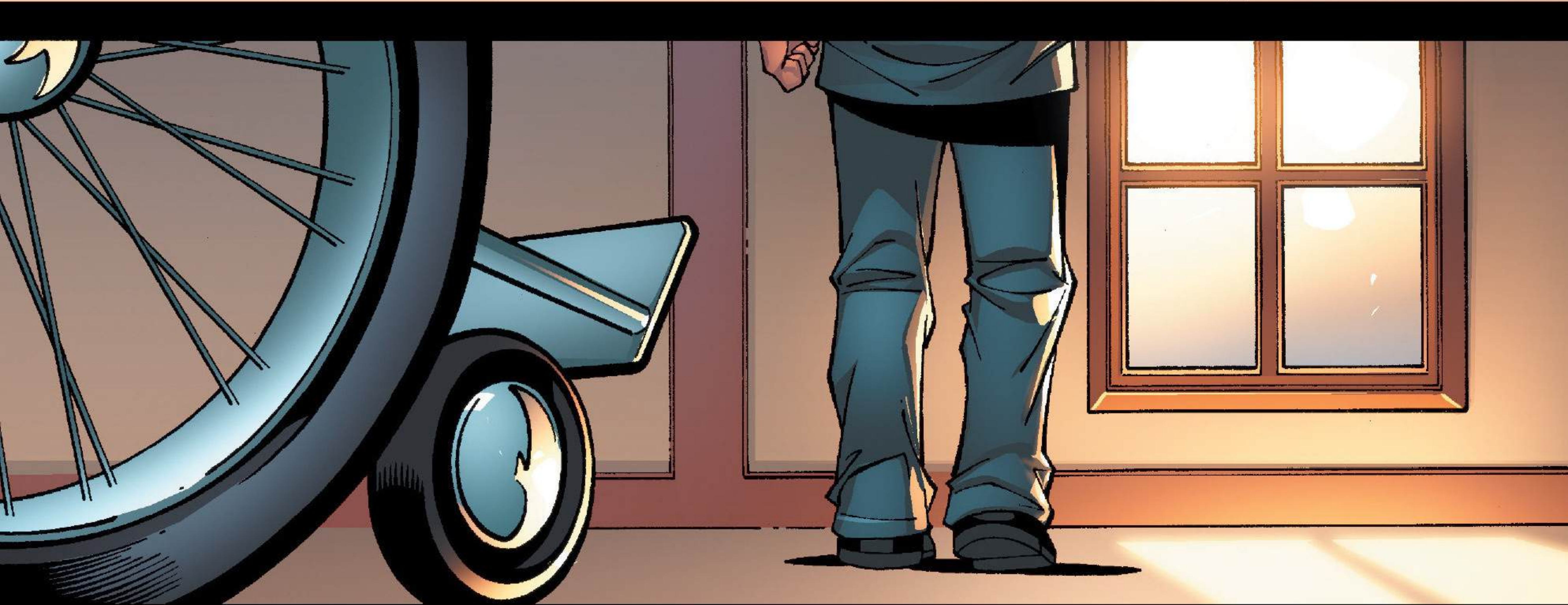
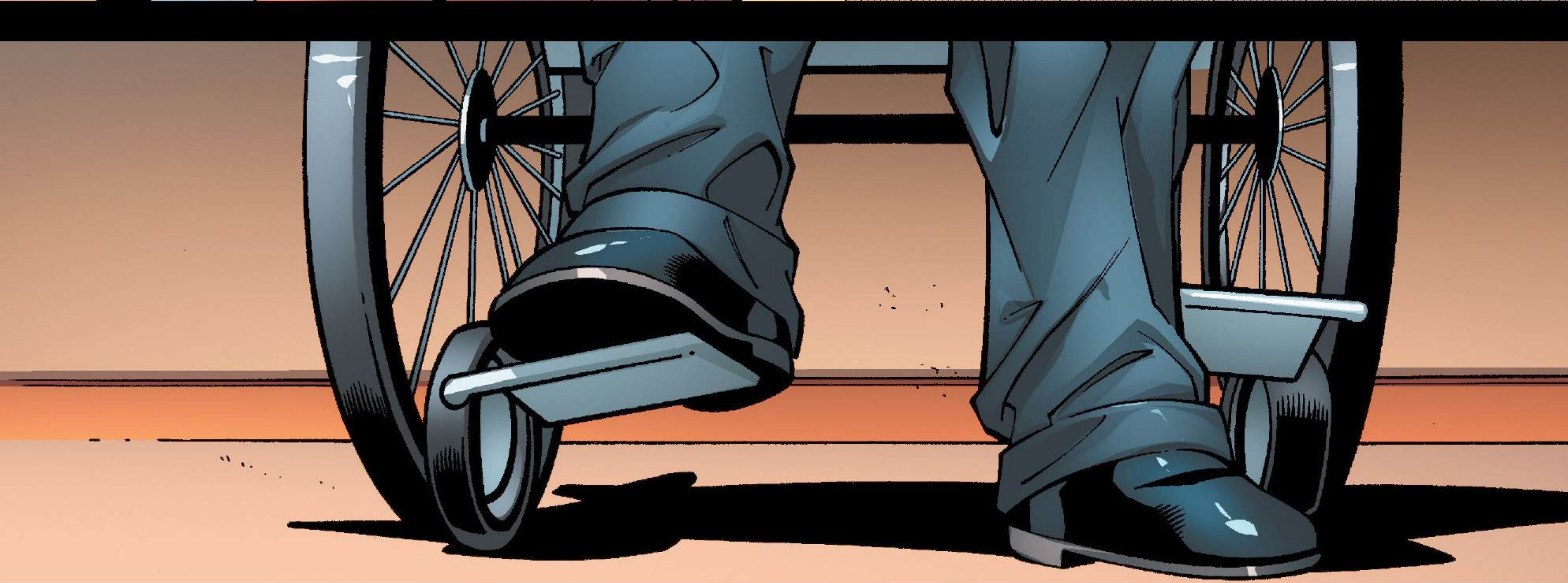
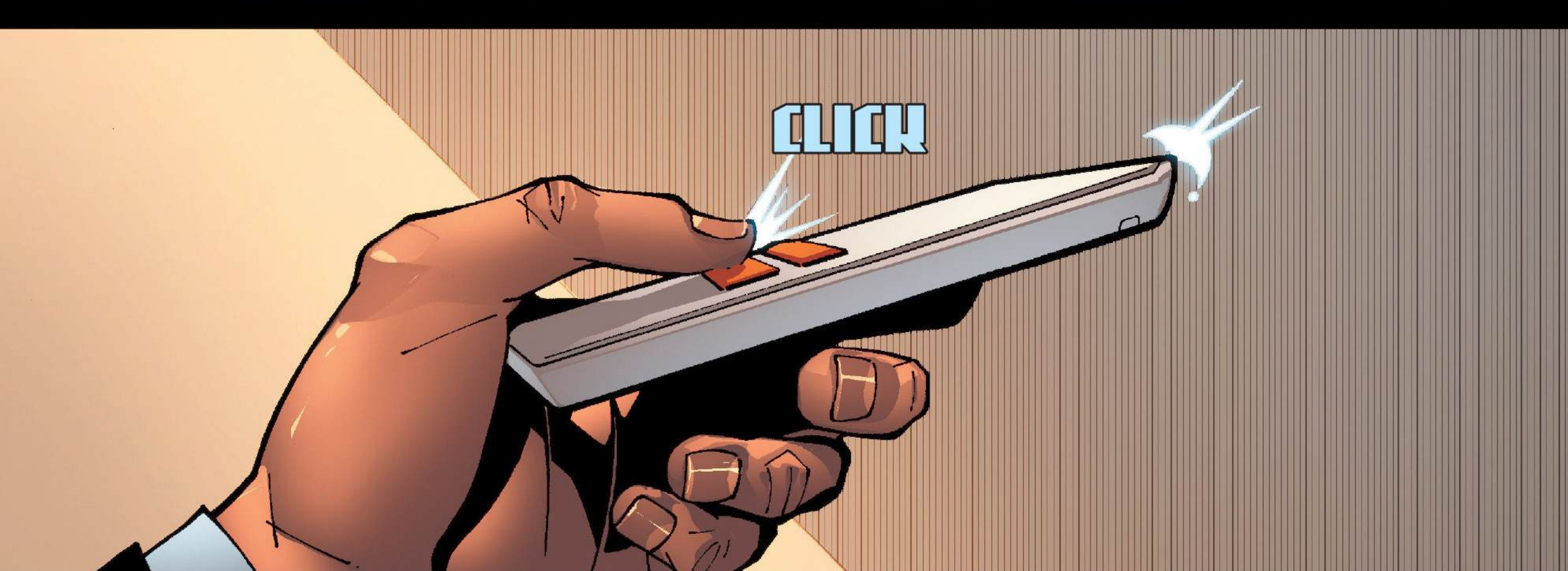
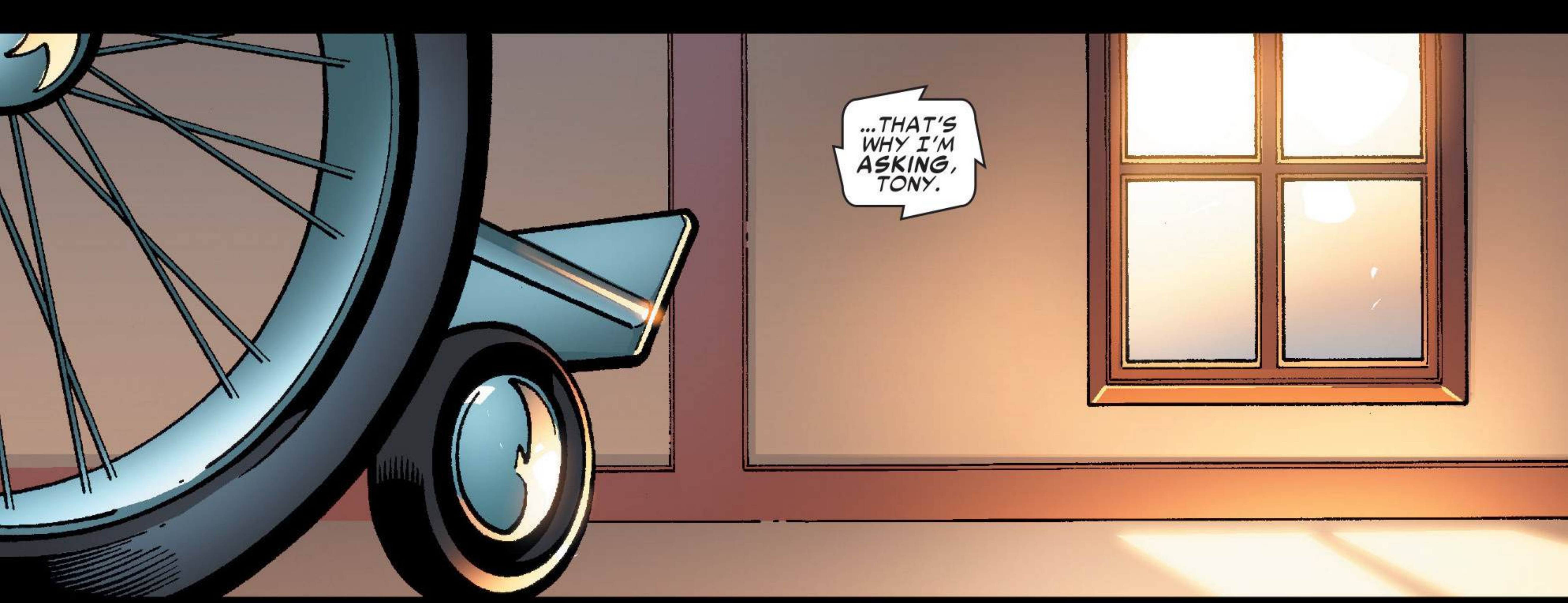
GIVE
ME SOME,
DOG.













TO BE CONTINUED...

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